



Bernadette Castro
Commissioner

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AGENCY DECISION AND STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

Adoption of a Master Plan for Moreau Lake State Park Designation of Park Preservation Area Designation of a Bird Conservation Area Designation of a Natural Heritage Area

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Final Master Plan, dated November 29, 2006, for Moreau Lake State Park located in the Towns of Moreau and Corinth in Saratoga County and the Towns of Lake Luzerne and Queensbury in Warren County.

By the authority vested in me in State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Law, I do hereby adopt the Final Master Plan for Moreau Lake State Park. I also designate portions of the park, as detailed in the Master Plan, Park Preservation, Bird Conservation and Natural Heritage Areas.

This decision represents certification of the attached Findings Statement prepared in accordance with the requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617.11, the regulations implementing Article 8 of Environmental Conservation Law - the State Environmental Quality Review Act. This decision is based on the Findings Statement and the content of the Master Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Bernadette Castro
Commissioner
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Date

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SEQR FINDINGS STATEMENT
Moreau Lake State Park Master Plan

December 18, 2006

Pursuant to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act – SEQRA) of the Environmental Conservation Law and 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), as lead agency, makes the following findings.

Title of the Action:

Adoption and Implementation of a Master Plan for Moreau Lake State Park

Location:

Moreau Lake State Park is located in the Towns of Moreau and Corinth in Saratoga County and the Towns of Lake Luzerne and Queensbury in Warren County.

Description of the Action:

The action is the adoption and implementation of a Master Plan for Moreau Lake State Park.

Date of Completion of the Final EIS: November 29, 2006

Findings:

1. These findings consider the relevant environmental impacts, facts and conclusions disclosed in the final EIS; weigh and balance relevant environmental impacts with social, economic and other considerations; provide a rationale for the agency's decision; certify that the requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617 have been met; and certify that consistent with social, economic and other essential considerations from among the reasonable alternatives available, the action is the one which avoids or minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and that adverse environmental impacts will be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable by incorporating as conditions those mitigative measures that were identified as practicable.
2. The Final Plan was subject to a complete Environmental Impact Statement process including two scoping meetings, an informal public meeting and a public hearing.

3. The Final Environmental Impact Statement contains a chapter on responses to comments on the Draft EIS. This chapter contains clarification of issues raised during the review of the Draft EIS. It also provides information that has been used in the preparation of the Final Plan.
4. The park is located in the Towns of Moreau and Corinth, Saratoga County and the Towns of Lake Luzerne and Queensbury, Warren County and is within OPRHP's Saratoga-Capital District State Park Region. The park occupies more than 4,100 acres and is divided by the Hudson River, which forms the boundary between Saratoga and Warren Counties.
5. The Park consists of forest, lakes, streams and other natural resources. The Park contains a variety of ecological communities and habitats including mature forests and wetlands. The general topography of the park is hilly with a combination of rolling hills and steep slopes. The park shows typical characteristics of both the northern Adirondack Mountains and southern Appalachian forests. An outwash plain that begins along the western bank of the Hudson River and extends down the valley supports oak-pine forests.
6. Inventories for the Park have shown that eighteen distinct natural community types were identified within Moreau Lake State Park. two of which are considered to be significant ecological communities. Large stands of hemlock-northern hardwood forest and associated beech-maple mesic forests dominate the landscape of the park. Other, less abundant, forest communities in the park include Appalachian oak-pine forest, chestnut oak forest, successional northern hardwoods, acidic talus slope woodland, hemlock-hardwood swamp and red maple hardwood swamp. Wetland community types were also found in the park.
7. The Hudson River and Moreau Lake are the two main water bodies with in the park boundaries. Moreau Lake is a "kettle hole lake" formed during the advancement and recession of glacial ice. The Hudson River bisects the park and separates the northern Luzerne Mountains from the southern Palmertown Range.
8. Currently the Park is used for both active and passive recreational activities including swimming, picnicking, camping, hiking, boating, hunting, fishing, bird watching and environmental education. Swimming is permitted at the existing beach area of Moreau Lake, but not in the Hudson River.
9. The plan identifies a vision statement and goals for the Park. The vision statement is: Moreau Lake State Park will be a place for the residents and non-residents of New York State to visit, enjoy and appreciate the natural, cultural and physical resources and the recreational opportunities that the park offers.
10. During the development of the Plan, the park was divided into four management

areas; Hudson River Corridor, Warren County, Palmertown Mountains and Lake Recreation. Alternative management and development directions were developed for each area using information developed on existing conditions, the analysis of recommended directions for activities and constraint and considerations identified in the resources analysis.

11. The park will be classified as a Scenic Park with a designated Park Preservation Area. A Scenic Park is located in a natural setting and has limited development which is oriented toward accommodating visitors who seek nature oriented activities and scenic attractions. While the management areas are unique in the opportunities they offer, they meet the criteria and character of a Scenic Park when viewed together as a whole area.
12. Article 20 of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law states that portions of a park may be designated as Park Preservation Areas. The purpose of such designation is to conserve and protect park lands containing wildlife, flora, scenic, historic and archeological sites that are unique and rare in New York State. The Palmertown Mountain Area of the park will be designated as a Park Preservation Area. There are many lower intensity uses within this area of the park. These uses include, but are not limited to: hiking, biking, hunting, birding, nature study. Park Preservation Area designation is consistent with the type and extent of use proposed for the Palmertown Range Area in the Plan and will encourage the study and interpretation of environmental resources in the area.
13. The NYS Bird Conservation Area (BCA) Program was created by state law in 1997. It calls for the dedication of state-owned lands as BCA's. These lands must meet certain criteria identified within the BCA law. Moreau Lake State Park was evaluated and determined to meet several of these criteria. As a result the Plan proposes that a BCA be designated within the Park. The areas to be included in the BCA consist primarily of hemlock-northern hardwood and beech-maple forests and exhibit characteristics most critical to bird conservation. The Hudson River, its shoreline and the intensive recreation use areas are not included in the BCA although they do exhibit some conservation value to birds and bird habitat. The immediate Hudson River shoreline is not state owned and therefore not eligible for BCA Designation. Management of these areas will incorporate strategies to enhance bird habitat. The vision for the Moreau Lake BCA is to achieve an appropriate balance between conservation of the diverse assemblage of bird species using the area for breeding or during migration, and access to and recreational use of various areas of the BCA.
14. Article 5 - Title 11 - Section 0539 of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law calls for the dedication of state-owned lands with rare species and/or significant natural communities as Natural Heritage Areas. These lands must meet certain criteria identified within the law. Moreau Lake State Park was evaluated and portions of the Park were determined to meet the criteria. The hemlock-northern hardwood forest

and the calcareous talus slope woodland communities, which have been determined by the New York Natural Heritage Program to be significant ecological communities, will be designated as Natural Heritage Area.

15. Various options for both resource stewardship and recreation elements, such as bird conservation, camping, boating and trails, were evaluated, and a recommended direction identified. These recommended directions provided the basis for the development of the Plan alternatives.
16. Two primary alternatives were identified in the Plan: (1) the Preferred Alternative, and (2) the Status Quo Alternative. The Status Quo Alternative consists of the current facilities, programs and practices. The Preferred Alternative combines the preferred options for recreation development and resource protection into one that best meets the goals for the park. This alternative represents the Final Master Plan.
17. The Master Plan details the proposed park classification, designations and recreation and stewardship elements:
 - Management within the Hudson River Corridor will focus on providing visual and physical access to the Hudson River. The two existing boat launches will be maintained and improved with better parking and access for persons with disabilities. Primitive water-accessed campsites will be maintained and sites added as use of the Hudson River Water Trail demands. With the phased development of a campground and cabin colony on the Hudson River the overall variety of camping experiences are increased within the Park.
 - The Warren County Management Area focus will be on providing access to this area of the park. A small year-round parking area will be established along with trails and a cartop launch. A trail plan for the area will be developed before any new trails are designated or built. Access to the car-top launch would be located on land that National Grid has retained and development at this site is dependent upon obtaining agreement with National Grid for access. Primary uses of this area are anticipated to be trail activities including: hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.
 - The focus of the plan for the Palmertown Management Area is on access, trail use and resource protection. Trailheads and parking areas will be created and existing areas improved. Non-motorized trail activities will include: hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Equestrian uses are not recommended for this area due to the steep slopes that form the perimeter of the plateau.
 - The Lake Recreation Area contains the more intense uses and recreation facilities. The day use/beach area will be improved through better parking configurations,

an additional pavilion, and a reconfigured bathhouse. In the campground area, improvements will be made that address: user impacts on the campsites, camper amenities, third car parking and access for persons with disabilities.

Development of the parkland between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road will include two RV camping loops and a picnic area. The dumping station will also be relocated within this area.

- The entrance of the Park will be redesigned to address vehicle stacking, overflow parking, and access to the parkland between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road. Entrance congestion and stacked vehicles will be addressed through the addition of a right turning lane to the north of the entrance and an additional parking area near the Park Office. The right turning lane will be created by adding a traffic lane to the north of the park entrance on the northeast bound lane side (on the Route 9 property). This will not require the closure of Old Saratoga Road or interfere with existing traffic patterns. The stacking/ right turning lane provides a safer alternative for park patrons waiting to enter the park.
- Hunting and fishing will continue in the park consistent with current practices.
- Park maintenance functions will be relocated to the parkland area between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road.
- The Nature Center will continue as the main programming “headquarters” for the park. Programming will be expanded to offer more and a greater variety of programs including community outreach. Brochures, maps and guides for interpreting such themes as wildlife, birds, ecology scenery, and history, will be developed. Existing partnerships will be maintained and new partnerships will be developed with volunteer organizations who conduct various guided hikes and interpretive programs within the park. Kiosks with informational panels will be installed at appropriate trailheads and parking areas. The Nature Trail will be improved to facilitate self guided study and enhance guided tours of the trail. A winter programming space will be developed.

18. Impacts associated with the implementation of the plan and mitigation measures identified are as follows:

- The Master Plan will improve or expand existing parking areas in the Hudson River, Warren County and Palmertown Mountain areas. These improvements will increase parking and provide safe access to these areas of the park. The redesign and improvement of the the Lake Recreation Area entrance will reduce traffic backups due to park patrons waiting to enter the park and create a safer more inviting park entrance. The proposed addition of a right turning/stacking lane will remove park patron vehicles from the through traffic lanes creating a safer situation on Old Saratoga Road. This option does not require the closure of

Old Saratoga Road nor does it interfere with existing traffic patterns.

- Implementation of the plan will result in substantial beneficial recreation and open space impacts. The plan proposes additional and improved camping opportunities, an improved trail network, better access to open space and scenic areas, improved and expanded natural and cultural resource interpretive and educational programs. There will be a minimal increase in boater use of the Hudson River and a modest increase in use of Moreau Lake for swimming, non-motorized boating and fishing as a result of implementing the plan. The existing campground area shows signs of overuse as documented in an earlier study. Each loop and the individual sites will be given additional evaluation for improvement. Techniques that will be considered at individual sites will include site edging, added plantings for screening, and creation of buddy sites. Camper education will also be an important component. This work will be phased and monitored and the various management strategies used will be evaluated for effectiveness. Design of new campsites proposed will also utilize techniques such as site edging to minimize potential use impacts to the greatest extent possible.
- Overall the Master Plan will have a positive impact on the natural resources within the park. Limited new development is proposed in the large forested area along the Hudson River. Direct impacts will be lessened since new development proposals will be focused in areas that have been previously disturbed, have limited environmental sensitivity and which generally possess accessibility to, and use of, existing infrastructure. Within the Warren County Area proposals for a picnic area and/or a cartop boat launch as well as the trail plan will require supplemental environmental review. Lake Recreation Area proposals involve the rehabilitation of the existing camping loops, construction of a warming hut/shower building and a new parking lot near the park office, relocation of the maintenance area and the dump station, and construction of new picnic areas and camping loops. With the exception of the new picnic area and camping loops, all new development has been located in existing cleared or previously disturbed areas.
- The large expanses of unfragmented forest in the park provide significant bird habitat. Recognizing the importance of these areas to providing habitat, a large portion of Moreau Lake State Park will be designated as a NYS Bird Conservation Area (BCA). A Management Guidance Summary (MGS) has been prepared for the BCA which identifies operation and management considerations relating to protection of birds and bird habitat in the park. In particular, the Bald Eagle, a federal and state listed threatened species, uses the Hudson River below the Spiers Falls dam during the winter. Winter trail use, including snowmobiling, has been an existing activity within the portion of the Park that is in Warren County. This use is local in nature and low in numbers. The Agency will continue to monitor Bald Eagle activity in the Park along with snowmobile and

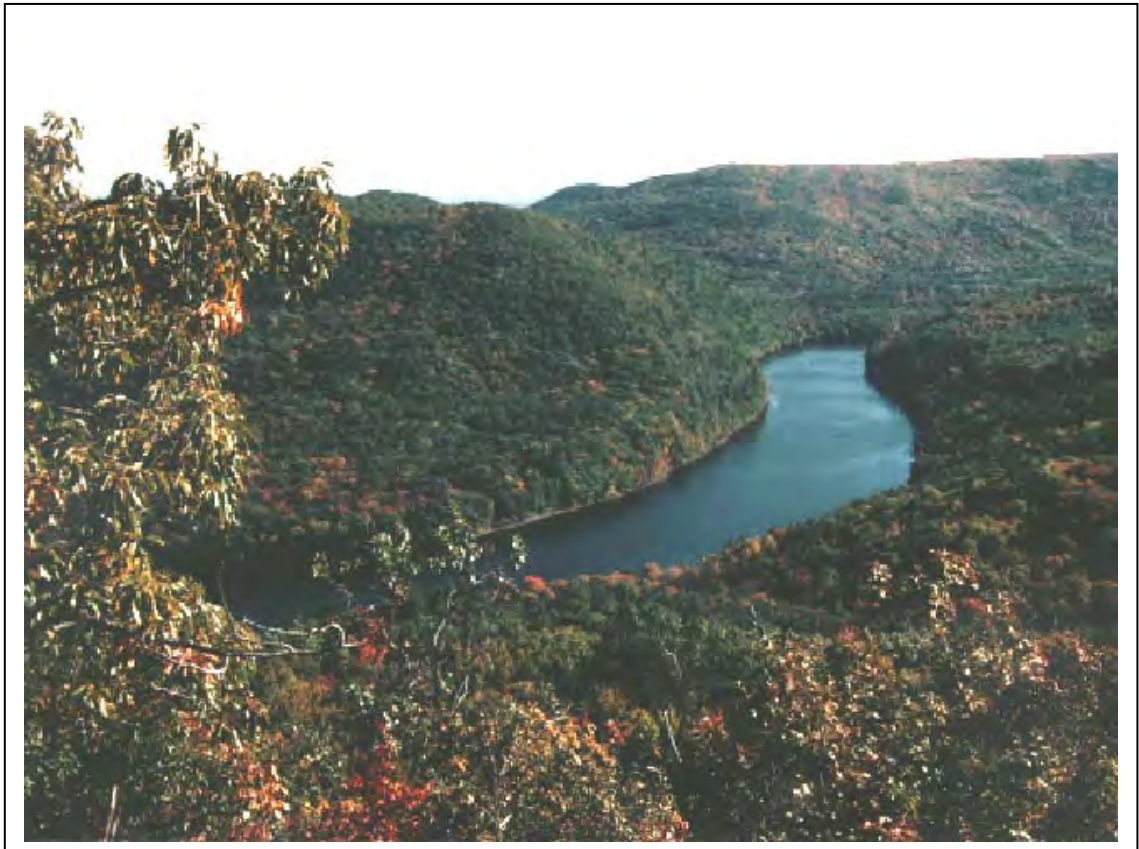
other trail uses within this area. The Agency will consult with the Endangered Species Unit at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on all matters pertaining to Bald Eagles, use and protection. As identified in the MGS, potential impacts to the Bald Eagles from any new activity, in particular increased winter use, along the Hudson River will be evaluated as plans are developed. This will include the Trail Plan for the Warren County area. The Agency will also continue winter monitoring and will consult with DEC staff on any new activities planned in the Hudson River area.

- The important and significant ecological communities within the park will be designated as a Natural Heritage Area. The Palmertown Mountain Area of the park will be designated as a Park Preservation Area. These designations each recognize and serve to further protect the significant resources within the Park.
- Ground disturbing activities such as digging or grading, have the potential to disturb archeological resources within the park. Phase 1A Cultural and Archeology studies have determined the potential for the park to have prehistoric cultural resources is moderate to high. Therefore, ground disturbing activities will require additional review to determine if there will be potential impacts to cultural resources.
- The park is to be classified as a Scenic Park under the State Parkland Classification System. For this reason, maintenance of the scenic and natural character of the park has been a primary consideration of the Plan. The Park will continue to provide a scenic backdrop for visitors using the trails and recreation areas. New facilities will be sited in such a way that they take maximum advantage of existing scenic features such as lakes and wooded areas, yet will be located so that they do not intrude on currently undeveloped viewsheds.

19. The Plan describes the process for supplemental environmental review. The Plan also provides for guidance as to when additional environmental review may be required. It also identifies the types of actions that are likely to require additional review. These include the preparation of a Trail Plan for the Warren County Area of the park, development of a picnic area and/or car-top boat launch off Corinth Road in the Warren County Area, and any proposal which results from the Saratoga County's study of water supply needs that affect park land.

Moreau Lake State Park

Final Master Plan/ Final Environmental Impact Statement



George E. Pataki
Governor

Bernadette Castro
Commissioner

OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION



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SEQR
NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF A FINAL MASTER PLAN FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Date of Notice: November 29, 2006
Lead Agency: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Title of Action: Adoption and Implementation of a Master Plan for Moreau Lake State Park
SEQR Status: Type I

Location of Action: Moreau Lake State Park is located in the Towns of Moreau and Corinth in Saratoga County and the Towns of Lake Luzerne and Queensbury in Warren County.

This Notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) has been completed and accepted on the Adoption and Implementation of a Master Plan for Moreau Lake State Park. Copies of the Final Plan and FEIS are available from the agency contacts and on the agency website www.nysparks.com/news/public.

The Executive Summary of the Final Plan and FEIS contains a brief description of the proposed Plan, environmental setting, alternatives and potential environmental impacts.


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Final Master Plan/ Final Environmental Impact Statement

For

MOREAU LAKE STATE PARK

Town of Moreau, Saratoga County
Town of Corinth, Saratoga County
Town of Lake Luzerne, Warren County
Town of Queensbury, Warren County

Prepared by

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Completed: November 29, 2006

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The area around Moreau Lake was originally a summer home and estate developed by George W. McAdam, a wealthy attorney. The lands were acquired over a 20 year period beginning in 1881. From 1935 to 1940 the area began to develop as a seasonal campground. The natural lake, existing forests and topography offered a scenic area for swimming, camping and other recreational activities. By 1940, the area of the park had been developed with dirt access roads along the southwestern and southeastern areas around Moreau Lake. Between 1940 and 1949, cabins or residences were constructed along the shores of Moreau Lake.

In 1961, the State Conservation Department, better known as the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), began acquiring land in the town of Moreau under a Bond Act to create a public campsite (Vollmer, 1969). By 1967, approximately 600 acres had been acquired and Moreau Lake State Park was established. This new park was transferred to the Capital District State Park Commission. When the Division of Parks and Recreation was separated from the Conservation Department in 1972, administration of Moreau Lake State Park became the responsibility of the Office of Parks and Recreation, which is now known as the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). Later acquisitions increased the park's acreage to just under 900 acres. In 1998, New York State acquired over 3,200 acres from the Open Space Institute (OSI) and Niagara Mohawk. The Department of Environmental Conservation acquired the parcels in Warren County that equal 1,320 acres and OPRHP acquired the 1,920 acres within Saratoga County. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) DEC agreed that the 1,320 acres they acquired would be managed and operated by OPRHP as part of Moreau Lake State Park. This more than tripled the size of Moreau Lake State Park. Moreau Lake State Park is now the tenth largest State Park in New York's park system and the largest park of the Saratoga-Capital District Region.

Park Planning

The only planning document that refers to Moreau Lake State Park is a plan entitled "Master Plan for Outdoor Recreation in the Capital District State Park Region, New York State" written in 1969 by the Vollmer Associates for the Conservation Department-Division of Parks and the Capital District State Park Commission. This plan identifies parcels for acquisition and recommends expansion of park facilities at Moreau Lake State Park (Vollmer, 1969).

Shortly after the 1998 acquisition, OPRHP Saratoga-Capital District Region made the decision that, in order to properly manage the expanded park and update the existing facilities, a Master Plan was necessary. OPRHP held two public scoping meetings to gather information from the general public and other State, Local and Federal agencies about the past uses and issues associated with future uses of the park. An advisory Group was formed consisting of local governments, adjacent landowners, and State and Federal Agencies to assist with the development of the Plan. Since then OPRHP Saratoga-Capital District Region and

Albany Office have been working with the advisory group, the public and consultants to gather physical, natural and cultural resource information about the park. This information is presented in this document and was used to develop the management alternatives found in Chapter 4. A preferred alternative was selected and evolved into the Master Plan.

This document serves as the Master Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Moreau Lake State Park. It describes the park, its existing resources and evaluates alternative actions for preserving resources, improving access and improving or expanding recreational opportunities within the park.

Environmental Setting

The park is located in the Towns of Moreau and Corinth, Saratoga County and the Towns of Lake Luzerne and Queensbury, Warren County within the Saratoga-Capital District State Park Region. The park occupies more than 4,100 acres and is divided by the Hudson River, which forms the boundary between Saratoga and Warren Counties.

The general topography of the park is hilly with a combination of rolling hills and steep slopes. The park shows typical characteristics of both the northern Adirondack Mountains and southern Appalachian forests. An outwash plain that begins along the western bank of the Hudson River and extends down the valley supports oak-pine forests. This forest type occurs in the park and has been developed as recreation areas (Evans & Novak, 2000).

The Hudson River and Moreau Lake are the two main waterbodies within the park boundaries. Moreau Lake is a “kettle hole lake” formed during the advancement and recession of glacial ice. The Hudson River bisects the park and separates the northern Luzerne Mountains from the southern Palmertown Range.

Eighteen distinct natural community types were identified within Moreau Lake State Park. Two of which are considered to be significant ecological communities. Large stands of hemlock-northern hardwood forest and associated beech-maple mesic forests dominate the landscape of the park. Other, less abundant, forest communities in the park include Appalachian oak-pine forest, chestnut oak forest, successional northern hardwoods, acidic talus slope woodland, hemlock-hardwood swamp and red maple hardwood swamp. Several nice examples of wetland community types were also observed on park land. Occurring in small patches of less than 5 acres, the dominant forested wetland of the park is hemlock-hardwood swamp.

Shady groves of trees shelter picnic grounds with play structures and a pavilion overlooking the lake. Wooded campgrounds and facilities for group campers, as well as tent and trailer sites are available. The sandy beach, nature, hiking, mountain biking and cross-country ski trails, opportunities for boating, fishing and ice fishing, and proximity to Saratoga Springs and Lake George make the park attractive to visitors. Located on the beach road, is the Lakeshore Cottage, a full service accommodation. The cottage provides everything from a refrigerator, stove, dishes and utensils to a screened porch, bathroom with shower, bedding, pillows and a cozy fireplace.

The park is open year round. Camping season runs from mid-May through mid-October. The beach is open for swimming from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Deer hunting is permitted in designated areas in season. Vehicle access in the winter months is limited.

Vision and Goals

Agency Mission Statement

The mission of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is to provide safe and enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities for all New York State residents and visitors and to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural, historic and cultural resources.

Vision Statement

Moreau Lake State Park will be a place for the residents and non-residents of New York State to visit, enjoy and appreciate the natural, cultural and physical resources and the recreational opportunities that the park offers.

Park Goal

To achieve a balance between the recreational use, protection and interpretation of the biological, physical and cultural resources of the park.

Resource Goals

- To identify, protect and interpret the natural resources within and associated with the park.
- Provide day use and overnight facilities that are compatible with the park's natural and cultural resources.
- Identify, protect, preserve and interpret sites and areas significant to the history, archaeology and culture of the local community, region, state and nation.
- Protect the scenic quality of the park and its viewshed.
- Provide appropriate access to the park and its recreational, cultural and natural resources.
- Provide opportunities for education and interpretation of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park.
- Operate and maintain the park in a safe and clean manner that protects the natural and cultural resources of the park.
- Develop partnerships with organizations, federal, state and local agencies, not-for-profit organizations and the private sector.
- Encourage scientific research into the natural and cultural resources of the park.

Alternatives

In Chapter IV, Analysis and Alternatives, the park was divided into four management areas; Hudson River Corridor, Warren County, Palmetown Mountains and Lake Recreation. Alternative management and development directions were developed for each area using information developed on existing conditions, the analysis of recommended directions for activities and constraint and considerations identified in the resources analysis. The preferred alternative for the entire park (i.e. the Master Plan) consists of the best alternative identified for each management area.

Status Quo Alternative

This alternative consists of the current facilities, programs and practices as described in the Environmental Setting Chapter. Under this alternative, the current resource protection, operation, and facility management practices would continue. The increasing demands on the park would not be met or mitigated nor would the resources be adequately protected. Identification and implementation of protection and use guidelines for the newly acquired parklands would be deferred until a future time.

Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative combines the preferred options from the Recreation Development and Resource Protection Alternatives sections in Chapter IV. There are many permutations that can be derived from the preferred options. The Preferred Alternative selected is the one that best meets the goals for the park.

The Master Plan

The park is classified as a Scenic Park, as the Analysis and Alternatives Chapter recommends. The development strategy within this Master Plan is consistent with this classification. While the management areas are unique in the opportunities they offer, they meet the criteria and character of a Scenic Park when viewed together as a whole park.

The primary focus of the Master Plan for Moreau Lake State Park is to establish a balance between recreational use and protection and interpretation of the park's natural and cultural resources. Moreau Lake State Park has the unique distinction of being the last State Park before reaching the Adirondack Park when traveling from southern New York State. The recent expansion of the park to include a segment of the Hudson River and the Palmertown and Luzerne Mountains provides a transition from recreation activities in a developed area to recreation activities in an undeveloped natural environment similar to the Adirondack Park. The expanded park area also offers an opportunity to interpret the historical uses of the Hudson River, from use by indigenous peoples to use as a major transportation corridor to a power generating waterway.

Management within the Hudson River Corridor will focus on providing visual and physical access to the Hudson river. The two existing boat launches will be maintained and improved with better parking and access for persons with disabilities. Primitive water-accessed campsites will be maintained and sites added as use of the Hudson River Water Trail demands. With the phased development of a campground and cabin colony on the Hudson River the overall variety of camping experiences are increased within the Park.

The Warren County Management Area focus will be on providing access to the park. A year-round parking area will be established along with trails and a cartop launch. A trail plan will be developed before any new trails are designated. Primary uses of this area are anticipated to be trail activities including: hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

The focus of the Palmertown Management Area is on access and trail use. Trailheads and parking areas will be created and others will be improved. Trails will be constructed and designated for non-motorized uses. Trail activities will include: hiking, biking, cross-country

skiing and snowshoeing. Equestrian uses are not recommended for this area due to the steep slopes.

The Lake Recreation Area focuses on the more intense uses and recreation facilities. The day use /beach area will be improved through better parking configurations, an additional pavilion, and a reconfigured bathhouse. In the campground area, improvements will be made that address user impacts on the campsites, camper amenities, third car parking and access for persons with disabilities. The entrance of the Park will be redesigned to address vehicle stacking, overflow parking, and use of the parkland between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road. Development of the parkland between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road will include two RV camping loops and a picnic area, and relocating the maintenance area and the dumping station. Entrance congestion and stacked vehicles will be address through the addition of a right turning lane to the north of the entrance and an additional parking area near the Park Office. The right turning lane will be created by adding a traffic lane to the north of the park entrance on the northeast bound lane side (on the Route 9 property). The existing southwest bound lane will become the turning lane, the old northeast bound lane will become the southwest bound traffic lane and the new lane will be the northeast bound traffic lane. This alternative will not require the closure of Old Saratoga Road or interfere with existing traffic patterns. The stacking/right turning lane provides a safer alternative for park patrons waiting to enter the park.

In addition to facility development and improvement, portions of the park will also carry designations for natural resource protection. These designations include a Bird Conservation Area, a Natural Heritage Area and a Park Preservation Area. The portion of the park designated as a Bird Conservation Area (BCA) consists of primarily hemlock-northern hardwoods and beech-maple forests that exhibit characteristics critical to bird and bird habitat conservation. The Natural Heritage Area recognizes significant ecological communities found within the park and the Park Preservation Area preserves an area of the park that has significant scenic views and topography.

Implementation

The implementation of the Master Plan will be done in phases. Initiation and completion of each phase will depend upon the availability of funding, demand and environmental permit approvals. The phasing plan will be subject to reorganization based on priorities and available resources for specific components of any given phase.

Phase	Description/Development Component
Planning: 1	Master Planning/Park Programming Environmental Surveys Environmental Assessment Designations (BCA, NHA, PPA)
Development: 1	Interpretive program expansion/improvement (on going). Development of partnerships with user groups, local governments, not-for-profit groups, schools, etc.

	<p>Begin improvements to the Park entrance including the construction of a right turning lane off Old Saratoga Road.</p> <p>Negotiate access road off Corinth Road.</p> <p>Inventory Warren County trails and develop trails plan.</p> <p>Develop water-access campsites at Potter's Point.</p> <p>Develop parking area off Hawk Road.</p> <p>Construct Western Ridge Trailhead and parking area.</p> <p>Improve Spier Falls Road "pull-off" areas and provide picnic tables at appropriate locations.</p> <p>Improve and designate uses for Lake Recreation Area Trails.</p>
2	<p>Implement Warren Co. Mgmt. Area Trails Plan.</p> <p>Begin development of cabin/camping area at Potter's Point.</p> <p>Improve Sherman Island and Spier Falls Boat Launches.</p> <p>Designate primitive camping areas/sites in Palmertown Mountain Area.</p> <p>Construct pavilion at volleyball court.</p> <p>Develop 3rd car parking areas in campground.</p> <p>Improve group camping area and parking.</p> <p>Improve campground, showers, electric, and camper amenities and install site creep mitigation measures.</p> <p>Begin redevelopment of park entrance.</p>
3	<p>Develop access/boat launch off Corinth Road.</p> <p>Complete development of cabin/camping area at Potter's Point.</p> <p>Complete entrance redesign.</p> <p>Relocate maintenance area, construct over flow parking, and develop picnic areas and RV camping loops on parklands between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road.</p>

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation

Environmental Impacts associated with the implementation of the Master Plan have been addressed under seven general areas: transportation/access, recreation/open space, water resources, biological resources/ecology, cultural resources, scenic/aesthetic resources, and public health. The Master Plan will improve or expand existing parking areas in the Hudson River, Warren County and Palmertown Mountain areas. These improvements will increase parking and provide safe access to these areas of the park. A significant redesign and improvement is proposed for the Lake Recreation Area entrance. The proposed redesign will reduce traffic backups due to park patrons waiting to enter the park and create a safer more inviting park entrance. The proposed addition of a right turning/stacking lane will remove park patron vehicles from the through traffic lanes creating a safer situation on Old Saratoga Road. This option does not require the closure of Old Saratoga Road nor does it interfere with existing traffic patterns. The plan will also result in substantial beneficial recreation and open space impacts. The plan proposes additional and improved camping opportunities, an improved trail network, better access to open space and scenic areas, improved and expanded natural and cultural resource interpretive and educational programs. There will be a minimal increase in boater use of the Hudson River and a modest increase in use of Moreau Lake for swimming, non-motorized boating and fishing as a result of implementing the plan. Overall the Master Plan will have a positive impact on the natural resources within the park. Limited new development is proposed in the large forested area along the Hudson River. Direct impacts will be lessened since new development proposals will be focused in areas that have been previously disturbed, have limited environmental sensitivity and which generally possess accessibility to, and use of, existing infrastructure. Within the Warren County Area proposals for a picnic area and/or a cartop boat launch will require supplemental review. Lake Recreation Area proposals involve the rehabilitation of the existing camping loops, construction of a warming hut/shower building and a new parking lot near the park office, relocation of the maintenance area and the dump station, and construction of new picnic areas and camping loops. With the exception of the new picnic area and camping loops, all new development has been located in existing cleared or previously disturbed areas. The large expanses of unfragmented forest in the park provide significant bird habitat. The Bald Eagle, a federal and State listed threatened species, is known to use the Hudson river below the Spier Falls dam during the winter months. Potential impacts to the eagles' use of the area will be identified as projects and proposals for new activities in the area evaluated. To further protect bird species, a large portion of Moreau Lake State Park is proposed for designation as a Bird Conservation Area (BCA). In addition, the important and significant ecological communities within the park are proposed for designation as a Natural Heritage Area. The Palmertown Mountain Area of the park is proposed for designation as a Park Preservation Area. These designations each recognize and serve to further protect the significant resources within the Park. Ground disturbing activities such as digging or grading, have the potential to disturb archeological resources within the park. Phase 1A Cultural and Archeology studies have determined the potential for the park to have prehistoric cultural resources is moderate to high. Therefore, ground disturbing activities will require additional review to determine if there will be potential impacts to cultural resources. The park is to be classified as a Scenic Park under the State Parkland Classification System. Overall, the Master Plan will have a beneficial impact on the scenic resources of the park. Public health and safety are an

important element in park operations. Facility design and development will meet all applicable health and safety codes as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Relationship to Other Programs

The Park works with many other agencies, and local partners in its day to day operations. These include Niagara Mohawk (National Grid), Mount McGregor Correctional Facility, the current owner/operator of the Spier Falls and Sherman Island power generating facilities, the Department of Environmental Conservation, Fernwood Fish Hatchery, and Saratoga County. In addition to these agencies the Park is also involved with State and Federal programs such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the American Heritage Rivers Program, and the Palmertown Range Trail. The Plan explains how each of these entities and programs influence and work with the Park.

Acknowledgements

The Moreau Lake State Park Draft Master Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement is a result of a cooperative effort by many persons. The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) would like to acknowledge the time and effort of each individual, public agency, and interest group who participated in the development of the park and this Draft Master Plan document.

In a cooperative effort, the Agency worked with and coordinated input from the following contributing agencies: The Towns of Moreau and Corinth of Saratoga County, The Towns of Queensbury and Lake Luzerne of Warren County, The Counties of Saratoga and Warren, The Department of Environmental Conservation(DEC), and the OPRHP Field Services Bureau

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New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Christopher Pushkarsh, Executive Deputy Commissioner

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

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Richard Lucia, Town Supervisor, Town of Corinth
Larry Bennett, Town Supervisor, Town of Lake Luzerne
Daniel Stec, Town Supervisor, Town of Queensbury
Tom Uncher, Brascan Power, New York

Questions and Answers about the Master Plan/FEIS

What is the action?

The action is the adoption and implementation of a Master Plan for Moreau Lake State Park.

Who is proposing to do this?

The Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is proposing this action.

Why was this report written?

This Final Master Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was written to provide the opportunity for individuals, organizations and other government agencies to participate in the development of a state park.

How much opportunity has there been for public participation?

Two public scoping meetings were held to gather information, concerns and issues surrounding the development and management of Moreau Lake State Park. Additional public information meetings were also held throughout the planning process to update the public and get feedback on the progress of the plan. An advisory group consisting of local governments, adjacent landowners and State and Federal agencies was formed to aid in the development of this plan. A progress report and conceptual plan was also presented to the Saratoga-Capital District State Park Commission.

A public meeting was held on December 13, 2005 and a public information meeting for the Moreau Town Board on February 8, 2006. The public comment period was extended to March 20, 2006.

How should this report be reviewed?

The report can be read from cover to cover or one may concentrate on particular areas of interest. A "Table of Contents" has been included with the report for easy location of chapters and sections.

What has the Commissioner decided?

Commissioner Castro has decided that a Master Plan/EIS is necessary to guide the management and development of the resources at Moreau Lake State Park. At this time, the Commissioner has also decided that the plan be made available for consideration. She has not made any decision regarding the adoption of the Master Plan/EIS.

How can someone comment on the plan?

People who wish to comment on this plan may write or call.

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What happens next?

Upon completion of the Final Master Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, there will be a 10 day period for agencies and the public to consider this document. Commissioner Castro will then issue a statement of findings which will describe the Action being taken and description of the basis for her decision

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I. Planning and Environmental Review

Introduction

This document serves as the Final Master Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Moreau Lake State Park. It describes the park, its existing resources and evaluates alternative actions for preserving resources, improving access and improving or expanding recreational opportunities within the park. Recently, the park has been expanded to include an additional 3,200+ acres. This Master Planning/EIS process was initiated to insure proper management and development of the newly acquired parkland. The planning and environmental review process require that physical, natural, cultural and recreational surveys be conducted to establish a baseline inventory and determine the existing conditions of the park. Summaries of these survey and inventory results are reported in this document. A review and analysis of the survey and inventory information is performed and also included in this document. This analysis is used to develop resource protection and recreation management alternatives and a preferred alternative is selected. This preferred alternative is then developed into the Master Plan for the park. Each alternative is evaluated for potential environmental, operational and fiscal impacts. These evaluations are documented in this report. Lastly the Master Plan is evaluated for its impacts on the environment and the measures that will be taken to avoid and mitigate these impacts are explained.

The Executive Summary summarizes the whole document by giving a brief description of what the park looks like now. It also provides a short overview of the preferred alternative and how it fits the character of the park.

The Questions and Answers section identifies and answers some very common questions often asked by the public and interested groups about the Master Planning/EIS process.

Chapter I describes the planning process used in the development of this plan. It also explains how the Environmental Impact Statement has been incorporated into the planning process and this document. This chapter also briefly identifies the programs and plans of Federal, State and Local agencies that may affect or be affected by this Master Plan.

Chapter II describes the park in great detail and establishes the “Environmental Setting” for the park. The results from the physical, natural and cultural surveys and inventories are reported in this chapter, as well as the current state of the park and its support facilities. This chapter also provides a picture of how the park fits into the local community and the niche it fills in the regional community.

Chapter III defines the vision and goals for the park and this plan. The vision provides an overall direction of what the park should be and how it serves the public. The goals and objectives outlined in this chapter provide direction in how the natural, cultural, recreational, communication and partnership resources are to be used to achieve the vision statement. The goals and objectives help to provide a framework for new construction, staffing and operating procedures associated with park development and management. The vision and goals are designed to be consistent with the statewide recreation goals of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the Agency’s mission statement.

Chapter IV, titled "Analysis and Alternatives", evaluates each element by providing a brief analysis of the existing conditions of the park, resource concerns and concerns identified through the public scoping process. Alternatives for recreation management and development are created as well as alternatives for resource protection and stewardship. These alternatives are then evaluated and a preferred alternative is identified in this chapter.

Chapter V is the Master Plan. This chapter takes the preferred alternative identified in Chapter IV and expands upon it to develop a comprehensive plan for the management and development of the park. This chapter provides operation, staffing, and design guidelines for the park as well as recreation development and management guidelines. A timeline for plan implementation is also outlined in this chapter. Lastly, this chapter identifies any relationships this plan has with other Federal, State, Local and/or non-profit organization plans and programs. How this plan relates to the goals of these other plans and programs is also explained. Potential partnerships with these interest groups, Federal, State or Local agencies and non-profit organizations are identified.

Chapter VI is the result of the environmental analysis of the alternatives and the preferred alternative. This chapter identifies the potential impacts of each alternative described in Chapter IV. It also reviews the potential impacts of the Master Plan. The impacts of the Master Plan are analyzed and described in this chapter as are methods of avoiding impacts and any mitigation measures required during plan implementation.

Chapter VII is the result of the public hearings and the comment period on the Draft Master Plan /DEIS. The comments received from the general public, interested organizations and other State, Federal and Local agencies are published here along with OPRHP's response.

Planning Process

The OPRHP planning process adheres to three basic principles:

- Planning is a continuing process: Assumptions for the classification and management of park resources must be constantly reevaluated in light of new information, changing needs and priorities, and resource character.
- Planning must be comprehensive: The information base, and pertinent additional research, should support the planning process and should encompass relevant social, economic and physical factors relating to the management and operation of the park and its resources.
- Planning must be coordinated and provide for public participation: Cooperation among appropriate governmental organizations, the public at large, special interest groups and the private sector is not only desirable but necessary.

The environmental review of proposed master plans for state park facilities is conducted in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR). OPRHP fully integrates the planning and environmental review processes. This document serves as both the Final Master Plan and the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Moreau Lake State Park.

Moreau Lake State Park, originally a private resort/farm of the McAdam Family, became a State Park in 1967. In 1998, an acquisition of more than 3,200 acres has since tripled the size of Moreau Lake State Park making it more than 4,100 acres in size. Moreau Lake State

Park is now the 10th largest State Park in New York's park system and the largest park of the Saratoga-Capital District Region

Shortly after the acquisition, OPRHP Saratoga-Capital District Region made the decision that, in order to properly manage the expanded park and update the existing facilities, a Master Plan was necessary. OPRHP held two public scoping meetings to gather information from the general public and other State, Local and Federal agencies about the past uses and issues associated with future uses of the park. An advisory group was formed consisting of local governments, adjacent landowners, and State and Federal Agencies to assist with the development of the Plan. Since then OPRHP Saratoga-Capital District Region and Albany Office have been working with the advisory group, the public and consultants to gather physical, natural and cultural resource information about the park. This information is presented in this document and was used to develop the management alternatives found in Chapter IV. A preferred alternative was selected and evolved into the Master Plan.

Relationship to Other Programs

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NiMo) (National Grid)

Although the State acquired significant acreage from Niagara Mohawk, the company retained a network of power line transmission corridors which crisscross the property. OPRHP negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NiMo to manage the transmission corridors as state park land. The MOU permits OPRHP to create 12 pedestrian/bicycle power line crossings and 1 vehicular power line crossing for trail and trail head parking development. The remainder of the corridors is not to be used for recreational purposes. Park management of these corridors will consist of enforcing park rules and prohibiting the use of the power line corridors as recreational corridors. This Master Plan includes these lands to establish a management program for the entire land area so that the various ownerships are transparent to the park visitor.

Department of Correctional Facilities/Mount McGregor Correctional Facility

The park has a long common boundary with the Mount McGregor Correctional Facility. In the past the Facility has provided the park with work crews to preserve scenic vistas. OPRHP should pursue a partnership with the Facility to continue this practice.

Erie Boulevard Power/Reliant Energy and its Successors

The Spier Falls and Sherman Island Dam power generating stations are regulated by a license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to the power company that owns the facilities. These licenses are renewed by the owner on a cycle of 30, 40 or 50 years. The power company was granted a license of 40 years for the Spier Falls and Sherman Island facilities on the Hudson River. When the licensing process is to begin again, OPRHP should be intimately involved with this process as per the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between OPRHP and the power company. Under the current license, the power company is charged with developing and maintaining recreational facilities along a 50-foot corridor of land on both shores of the Hudson River. These facilities include

two boat launches, waterfront campsites and portage trails around the Spier Falls and Sherman Island Dams. Under the terms of the MOU between OPRHP and the power company, OPRHP will be responsible for operating the boat launch and camping facilities so that the change in ownership is transparent to the visitor.

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

There is currently a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DEC and OPRHP for the operation and maintenance of park lands north of the Hudson River within Warren County. The DEC is the owner of these lands; however, they will be managed and maintained by OPRHP as part of Moreau Lake State Park. Under the terms of the MOU, OPRHP and DEC are to cooperate in the development of a management plan for these lands. DEC has participated in the development of this Master Plan.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The developed areas of Moreau Lake State Park (i.e. campground, day use and trails) were constructed before agencies were required to provide facilities for persons with disabilities. As awareness to the needs of persons with disabilities increased, alterations to the park's facilities have been made. The Americans with Disabilities Act –Access Board has developed and proposed new design and development guidelines for providing facilities usable by persons with disabilities. Through recent consultation and evaluation, it has been determined that the Park's facilities do not meet the new design and development guidelines. As the existing facilities and structures require reconstruction, renovation or rehabilitation, the designs applied will conform to the ADA design and development guidelines. Likewise, components that comply with ADA design and development guidelines will be incorporated into plans for new facilities.

Fernwood Fish Hatchery

The Fernwood Fish Hatchery is located southeast of the park. It is in the floodplain of Moreau Lake. OPRHP has an easement and an agreement with the hatchery to maintain drainage structures and culverts through the hatchery property. These drainage structures and culverts help to control runoff from Moreau Lake.

Saratoga County

Saratoga County supports a county-wide fish stocking program and budgets \$21,000 each year for their program. Moreau Lake is included in the County's stocking program. Stocking of Moreau Lake is coordinated through DEC, Fernwood Fish Hatchery and Moreau Lake State Park. The County pays all of the costs for stocking. DEC issues the permits and recommends the number and species of fish to be stocked. The Park should continue the partnership with the County and its program.

Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF)

Appropriations from the New York State Land and Water Conservation Fund were used to construct the bathhouse at Moreau Lake. Under the regulations of the LWCF, any park

that receives such funding is granted "6F" protection. This means that no part of the park property can be converted for uses other than public recreation.

American Heritage River

In 1997, Governor George E. Pataki nominated the Hudson River to be designated, in 1998, as an American Heritage River. The 315 miles of river, from its source in Lake Tear of the Clouds to the Verrazano Narrows, and the 19 counties surrounding its shores are included in the Heritage River Area. Moreau Lake State park is included in the Hudson's American Heritage River Area.

The Palmertown Range Trail

The Saratoga-Capital District Park Region is currently working on developing a multiple use trail that will connect Moreau Lake State Park with Saratoga Spa State Park. This trail is still in planning stages and proposes to include Moreau Lake State Park trails in its route -- the Western Ridge Trail and the Ridge Run Trail. As on the Park's trails, the Palmertown Range Trail will permit non-motorized uses.

Summary of Resource Protection and Use Concerns

The following list of resource protection and use concerns was generated through the inventory of resources process and from comments collected during public scoping, and public information meetings held throughout the planning process. These issues and concerns will be considered in the development and selection of alternatives. Please note that the concerns contained in this list are presented in no particular order or priority. All issues and concerns listed are considered equally important to the development of the plan and the Park.

- The stretch of Hudson River within the Park is a quiet, undeveloped and pristine area that should be preserved. It is great for canoeing and kayaking and should not have motorboats of any kind.
- Consider designating part of the park as a Park Preservation Area.
- The Park could be eligible for BCA designation.
- Local residents like the walk-in access to the park.
- Consider expanding winter parking and uses.
- Don't install electricity in campsites; keep the campground open to tents.
- Some groups want electricity installed at the campsites.
- Park trails need to be marked better.
- Enforcement of no ATV use needs to be improved.
- Keep hunting as an activity within the Park
- Consider swimming in the Hudson River, possibly a "swim at your own risk" policy.
- Sign the route to the existing Park entrance better.
- Acquire in-holdings.
- There are restrictions with some designations.
- Consider providing more cabin or cottages within the park. They could possibly be located along the river.
- Snowmobiles, ATV's and equestrians should be limited to separate, designated areas/trails.
- Don't charge for activities that are now experienced for free (boat launching, riverside camping and swimming.)
- Hiking and hunting are two activities best suited for the expanded park property.
- Include mountain biking as an activity within the Park.

- Redesign the Park entrance. Possibly develop separate entrances for day users and campers.
- Some of the Moreau Lake campsites are in poor condition due to use impacts (i.e. soil compaction, scarred trees, pad creep and erosion).
- Trees in the picnic/day use area are stressed from soil compaction.
- Utilize the property between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road.
- Provide a swimming beach for campers.
- Rehabilitate, renovate and/or expand the Moreau Lake camping area.
- Construction of the Spier Falls and Sherman Island Dams are great topics for historic interpretation.
- Interpret the logging industry and the log drives on the Hudson River.
- The character and capacity of the Hudson River corridor should not be destroyed by more intensive types of uses.
- There is a PCB site at the end of Hartman Hill.
- Provide boat access from Queensbury.
- Eagles are seen on the river in spring.
- Consider providing take-off/landing locations for hang gliders.
- Preserve the scenery and vistas in the Park.
- Explore the potential for rock climbing in the park.
- Make trails accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Parking, pedestrian and bicycle use along Spier Falls Road is dangerous because there is not enough shoulder space.
- Don't allow PWC's on the river.
- Litter along the river and Spier Falls Road is a problem.
- The Hudson River area is a hawk watch area.
- Karner Blue Butterflies may exist within the Park.
- The river is used by ice-fishermen in the winter.

I. Planning and Environmental Review

Introduction

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Chapter I describes the planning process used in the development of this plan. It also explains how the Environmental Impact Statement has been incorporated into the planning process and this document. This chapter also briefly identifies the programs and plans of Federal, State and Local agencies that may affect or be affected by this Master Plan.

Chapter II describes the park in great detail and establishes the “Environmental Setting” for the park. The results from the physical, natural and cultural surveys and inventories are reported in this chapter, as well as the current state of the park and its support facilities. This chapter also provides a picture of how the park fits into the local community and the niche it fills in the regional community.

Chapter III defines the vision and goals for the park and this plan. The vision provides an overall direction of what the park should be and how it serves the public. The goals and objectives outlined in this chapter provide direction in how the natural, cultural, recreational, communication and partnership resources are to be used to achieve the vision statement. The goals and objectives help to provide a framework for new construction, staffing and operating procedures associated with park development and management. The vision and goals are designed to be consistent with the statewide recreation goals of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the Agency’s mission statement.

Chapter IV, titled "Analysis and Alternatives", evaluates each element by providing a brief analysis of the existing conditions of the park, resource concerns and concerns identified through the public scoping process. Alternatives for recreation management and development are created as well as alternatives for resource protection and stewardship. These alternatives are then evaluated and a preferred alternative is identified in this chapter.

Chapter V is the Master Plan. This chapter takes the preferred alternative identified in Chapter IV and expands upon it to develop a comprehensive plan for the management and development of the park. This chapter provides operation, staffing, and design guidelines for the park as well as recreation development and management guidelines. A timeline for plan implementation is also outlined in this chapter. Lastly, this chapter identifies any relationships this plan has with other Federal, State, Local and/or non-profit organization plans and programs. How this plan relates to the goals of these other plans and programs is also explained. Potential partnerships with these interest groups, Federal, State or Local agencies and non-profit organizations are identified.

Chapter VI is the result of the environmental analysis of the alternatives and the preferred alternative. This chapter identifies the potential impacts of each alternative described in Chapter IV. It also reviews the potential impacts of the Master Plan. The impacts of the Master Plan are analyzed and described in this chapter as are methods of avoiding impacts and any mitigation measures required during plan implementation.

Chapter VII is the result of the public hearings and the comment period on the Draft Master Plan /DEIS. The comments received from the general public, interested organizations and other State, Federal and Local agencies are published here along with OPRHP's response.

Planning Process

The OPRHP planning process adheres to three basic principles:

- Planning is a continuing process: Assumptions for the classification and management of park resources must be constantly reevaluated in light of new information, changing needs and priorities, and resource character.
- Planning must be comprehensive: The information base, and pertinent additional research, should support the planning process and should encompass relevant social, economic and physical factors relating to the management and operation of the park and its resources.
- Planning must be coordinated and provide for public participation: Cooperation among appropriate governmental organizations, the public at large, special interest groups and the private sector is not only desirable but necessary.

The environmental review of proposed master plans for state park facilities is conducted in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR). OPRHP fully integrates the planning and environmental review processes. This document serves as both the Final Master Plan and the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Moreau Lake State Park.

Moreau Lake State Park, originally a private resort/farm of the McAdam Family, became a State Park in 1967. In 1998, an acquisition of more than 3,200 acres has since tripled the size of Moreau Lake State Park making it more than 4,100 acres in size. Moreau Lake State

Park is now the 10th largest State Park in New York's park system and the largest park of the Saratoga-Capital District Region

Shortly after the acquisition, OPRHP Saratoga-Capital District Region made the decision that, in order to properly manage the expanded park and update the existing facilities, a Master Plan was necessary. OPRHP held two public scoping meetings to gather information from the general public and other State, Local and Federal agencies about the past uses and issues associated with future uses of the park. An advisory group was formed consisting of local governments, adjacent landowners, and State and Federal Agencies to assist with the development of the Plan. Since then OPRHP Saratoga-Capital District Region and Albany Office have been working with the advisory group, the public and consultants to gather physical, natural and cultural resource information about the park. This information is presented in this document and was used to develop the management alternatives found in Chapter IV. A preferred alternative was selected and evolved into the Master Plan.

Relationship to Other Programs

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NiMo) (National Grid)

Although the State acquired significant acreage from Niagara Mohawk, the company retained a network of power line transmission corridors which crisscross the property. OPRHP negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NiMo to manage the transmission corridors as state park land. The MOU permits OPRHP to create 12 pedestrian/bicycle power line crossings and 1 vehicular power line crossing for trail and trail head parking development. The remainder of the corridors is not to be used for recreational purposes. Park management of these corridors will consist of enforcing park rules and prohibiting the use of the power line corridors as recreational corridors. This Master Plan includes these lands to establish a management program for the entire land area so that the various ownerships are transparent to the park visitor.

Department of Correctional Facilities/Mount McGregor Correctional Facility

The park has a long common boundary with the Mount McGregor Correctional Facility. In the past the Facility has provided the park with work crews to preserve scenic vistas. OPRHP should pursue a partnership with the Facility to continue this practice.

Erie Boulevard Power/Reliant Energy and its Successors

The Spier Falls and Sherman Island Dam power generating stations are regulated by a license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to the power company that owns the facilities. These licenses are renewed by the owner on a cycle of 30, 40 or 50 years. The power company was granted a license of 40 years for the Spier Falls and Sherman Island facilities on the Hudson River. When the licensing process is to begin again, OPRHP should be intimately involved with this process as per the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between OPRHP and the power company. Under the current license, the power company is charged with developing and maintaining recreational facilities along a 50-foot corridor of land on both shores of the Hudson River. These facilities include

two boat launches, waterfront campsites and portage trails around the Spier Falls and Sherman Island Dams. Under the terms of the MOU between OPRHP and the power company, OPRHP will be responsible for operating the boat launch and camping facilities so that the change in ownership is transparent to the visitor.

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

There is currently a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DEC and OPRHP for the operation and maintenance of park lands north of the Hudson River within Warren County. The DEC is the owner of these lands; however, they will be managed and maintained by OPRHP as part of Moreau Lake State Park. Under the terms of the MOU, OPRHP and DEC are to cooperate in the development of a management plan for these lands. DEC has participated in the development of this Master Plan.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The developed areas of Moreau Lake State Park (i.e. campground, day use and trails) were constructed before agencies were required to provide facilities for persons with disabilities. As awareness to the needs of persons with disabilities increased, alterations to the park's facilities have been made. The Americans with Disabilities Act –Access Board has developed and proposed new design and development guidelines for providing facilities usable by persons with disabilities. Through recent consultation and evaluation, it has been determined that the Park's facilities do not meet the new design and development guidelines. As the existing facilities and structures require reconstruction, renovation or rehabilitation, the designs applied will conform to the ADA design and development guidelines. Likewise, components that comply with ADA design and development guidelines will be incorporated into plans for new facilities.

Fernwood Fish Hatchery

The Fernwood Fish Hatchery is located southeast of the park. It is in the floodplain of Moreau Lake. OPRHP has an easement and an agreement with the hatchery to maintain drainage structures and culverts through the hatchery property. These drainage structures and culverts help to control runoff from Moreau Lake.

Saratoga County

Saratoga County supports a county-wide fish stocking program and budgets \$21,000 each year for their program. Moreau Lake is included in the County's stocking program. Stocking of Moreau Lake is coordinated through DEC, Fernwood Fish Hatchery and Moreau Lake State Park. The County pays all of the costs for stocking. DEC issues the permits and recommends the number and species of fish to be stocked. The Park should continue the partnership with the County and its program.

Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF)

Appropriations from the New York State Land and Water Conservation Fund were used to construct the bathhouse at Moreau Lake. Under the regulations of the LWCF, any park

that receives such funding is granted "6F" protection. This means that no part of the park property can be converted for uses other than public recreation.

American Heritage River

In 1997, Governor George E. Pataki nominated the Hudson River to be designated, in 1998, as an American Heritage River. The 315 miles of river, from its source in Lake Tear of the Clouds to the Verrazano Narrows, and the 19 counties surrounding its shores are included in the Heritage River Area. Moreau Lake State park is included in the Hudson's American Heritage River Area.

The Palmertown Range Trail

The Saratoga-Capital District Park Region is currently working on developing a multiple use trail that will connect Moreau Lake State Park with Saratoga Spa State Park. This trail is still in planning stages and proposes to include Moreau Lake State Park trails in its route -- the Western Ridge Trail and the Ridge Run Trail. As on the Park's trails, the Palmertown Range Trail will permit non-motorized uses.

Summary of Resource Protection and Use Concerns

The following list of resource protection and use concerns was generated through the inventory of resources process and from comments collected during public scoping, and public information meetings held throughout the planning process. These issues and concerns will be considered in the development and selection of alternatives. Please note that the concerns contained in this list are presented in no particular order or priority. All issues and concerns listed are considered equally important to the development of the plan and the Park.

- The stretch of Hudson River within the Park is a quiet, undeveloped and pristine area that should be preserved. It is great for canoeing and kayaking and should not have motorboats of any kind.
- Consider designating part of the park as a Park Preservation Area.
- The Park could be eligible for BCA designation.
- Local residents like the walk-in access to the park.
- Consider expanding winter parking and uses.
- Don't install electricity in campsites; keep the campground open to tents.
- Some groups want electricity installed at the campsites.
- Park trails need to be marked better.
- Enforcement of no ATV use needs to be improved.
- Keep hunting as an activity within the Park
- Consider swimming in the Hudson River, possibly a "swim at your own risk" policy.
- Sign the route to the existing Park entrance better.
- Acquire in-holdings.
- There are restrictions with some designations.
- Consider providing more cabin or cottages within the park. They could possibly be located along the river.
- Snowmobiles, ATV's and equestrians should be limited to separate, designated areas/trails.
- Don't charge for activities that are now experienced for free (boat launching, riverside camping and swimming.)
- Hiking and hunting are two activities best suited for the expanded park property.
- Include mountain biking as an activity within the Park.

- Redesign the Park entrance. Possibly develop separate entrances for day users and campers.
- Some of the Moreau Lake campsites are in poor condition due to use impacts (i.e. soil compaction, scarred trees, pad creep and erosion).
- Trees in the picnic/day use area are stressed from soil compaction.
- Utilize the property between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road.
- Provide a swimming beach for campers.
- Rehabilitate, renovate and/or expand the Moreau Lake camping area.
- Construction of the Spier Falls and Sherman Island Dams are great topics for historic interpretation.
- Interpret the logging industry and the log drives on the Hudson River.
- The character and capacity of the Hudson River corridor should not be destroyed by more intensive types of uses.
- There is a PCB site at the end of Hartman Hill.
- Provide boat access from Queensbury.
- Eagles are seen on the river in spring.
- Consider providing take-off/landing locations for hang gliders.
- Preserve the scenery and vistas in the Park.
- Explore the potential for rock climbing in the park.
- Make trails accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Parking, pedestrian and bicycle use along Spier Falls Road is dangerous because there is not enough shoulder space.
- Don't allow PWC's on the river.
- Litter along the river and Spier Falls Road is a problem.
- The Hudson River area is a hawk watch area.
- Karner Blue Butterflies may exist within the Park.
- The river is used by ice-fishermen in the winter.

II. Environmental Setting

The Region

New York State is divided into 12 park regions. Eleven of these regions are under the jurisdiction of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The twelfth region is composed of the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves and is administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Moreau Lake State Park is located in the Saratoga-Capital District Region administered by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP).

Regional characteristics of the counties and the region in which Moreau Lake State Park is located, especially as they relate to demographics, land use and other general implications on the park, are described in this section of the chapter.

Location

The park is located in the Towns of Moreau and Corinth, Saratoga County and the Towns of Lake Luzerne and Queensbury, Warren County within the Saratoga-Capital District State Park Region. The park is along the southern edge of the Adirondack Mountains (See Map 1 – Vicinity Map).

Access and Transportation

Access

The main entrance to the park is off of Old Saratoga Road accessed from State Route 9 via Exit 17 off I-87 (the Northway). To the north and west, Spier Falls Road transects the park as it parallels the Hudson River. The portion of the park located in Warren County cannot be directly accessed from the main Saratoga County portion of the park because the Hudson River flows through the park and there are no pedestrian or vehicle crossings along this stretch of river. Access to the Warren County section of the park is obtained from either Exit 18 of I-87, through the City of Glens Falls and into the park property via Corinth Road, or via Spier Falls Road west into the Village of Corinth and across the river by the bridge. The only other means to access that area of the park is to arrive by boat. Spier Falls Dam is impassible to large boats but canoes and kayaks can be portaged around the falls to continue down river to the Sherman Island Dam for another portage.

Transportation

The primary mode of traveling to the park is by personal vehicle and the use of the state, county and local road system. There is no public transportation or mass transit system linked directly to the park. The closest AMTRAK rail stations are in Fort Edward (8 miles) and Saratoga Springs (12 miles). Taxi service and car rentals are available in both communities. Adirondack Trailways maintains bus service from Albany (40 miles) to Glens Falls and

Plattsburgh. The region also offers the Albany International Airport (38 miles) and several small county airports.

Physical Characteristics

The general topography of the park is hilly with a combination of rolling hills and steep slopes. The park shows typical characteristics of both the northern Adirondack Mountains and southern Appalachian forests. An outwash plain that begins along the western bank of the Hudson River and extends down the valley supports oak-pine forests. This forest type occurs in the park and has been developed as recreation areas (Evans & Novak, 2000).

The Hudson River and Moreau Lake are the two main waterbodies within the park boundaries. Moreau Lake is a “kettle hole lake” formed during the advancement and recession of glacial ice. The Hudson River bisects the park and separates the northern Luzerne Mountains from the southern Palmertown Range.

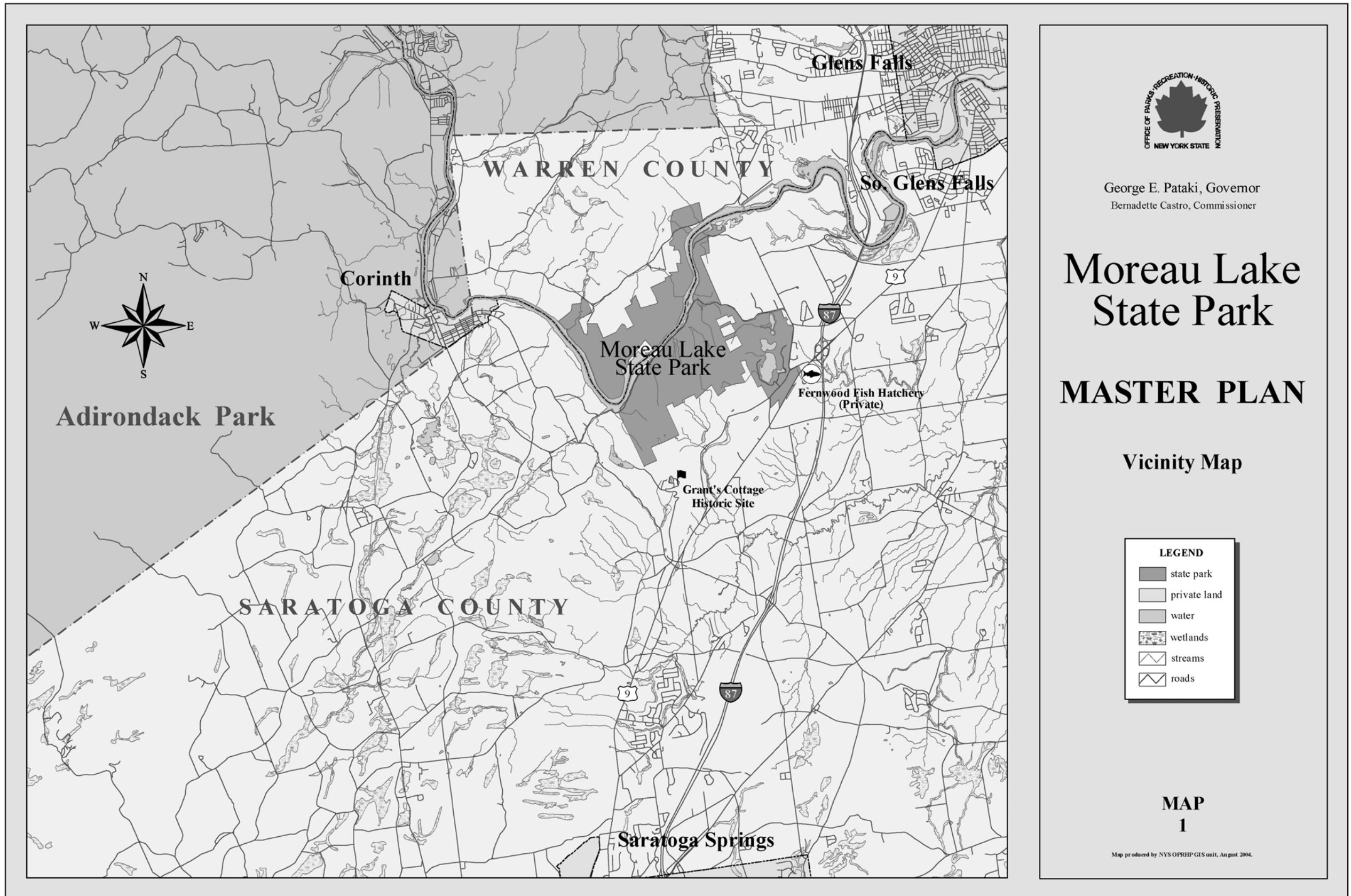
Socioeconomic Characteristics

A visitor survey conducted during the summer of 1999 indicated that visitors to the park primarily reside in counties immediately surrounding the park; 47.2% of the visitors reside in Saratoga County, Washington County (12.3%) and Albany County (10.8%) (OPRHP, 1999). Visitors also came from Rensselaer, Warren and Schenectady Counties. These six counties will define the park’s service area and are used in the following section.

Population

Based on the 2000 Census, the population of New York State is 18,976,457. That is a 5.48% increase from 1990 (Table 2-1). The 2000 population for the six-county service area for Moreau Lake State Park is 918,638 with Albany County having the largest population (Table 2-1). Rensselaer and Schenectady Counties show their population as declining, while Albany, Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties show an increase in population. Of the six counties, Saratoga County is showing the largest increase in population.

Map 1 – Vicinity Map



George E. Pataki, Governor
Bernadette Castro, Commissioner

Moreau Lake State Park

MASTER PLAN

Vicinity Map

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Table 2-1 – Population and Change in Population from 1990 to 2000 for the Six County Service Area of Moreau Lake State Park					
Area or County	1990 Census	2000 Census	Percent Change	Project Population 2010	Percent Change 2000-2010
New York State	17,990,778	18,976,457	5.48%	18,509,390	-2.46%
Albany	292,793	294,565	0.61%	308,325	4.67%
Rensselaer	154,429	152,538	-1.22%	160,591	5.28%
Saratoga	181,276	200,635	10.68%	232,102	15.68%
Schenectady	149,285	146,555	-1.83%	148,039	1.01%
Warren	59,209	63,303	6.91%	65,555	3.56%
Washington	59,330	61,042	2.89%	63,163	3.47%
Service Area (Total)	896,322	918,638	2.49%	977,775	6.44%

Source: 2001 New York State Statistical Yearbook 26th Edition

Unemployment

Unemployment rates within the Park's service area range from 2.8% in Albany County to 4.1% in Washington County. The unemployment rate for the entire service area is 3.57% (Table 2-2). The unemployment rate for the park's service area dropped from 4.25% in 1998 (SUNY, 2001).

Table 2-2 – 2000 Unemployment Rates for the Six County Service Area of Moreau Lake State Park	
Area	Percent Unemployment
New York State	4.60%
Albany	2.80%
Rensselaer	3.80%
Saratoga	3.20%
Schenectady	3.50%
Warren	4.00%
Washington	4.10%
Service Area (Total)	3.57%

Source: 2001 New York State Statistical Yearbook 26th Edition

Housing

In 1990, Albany County had the largest number of housing units of the six counties. This is most likely attributed to the high population and the State's capital city being located in this county. Schenectady County had the lowest number of seasonal units (282), whereas Warren County had the highest number at 6,944. Part of Warren County is within the Adirondack Park, which is a major tourist and vacation destination area.

County	Total Housing Units	Total Occupied Housing Units	Seasonal Units
Albany	124,255	115,824	1,168
Rensselaer	62,591	57,612	1,258
Saratoga	75,105	66,425	4,708
Schenectady	62,769	59,181	282
Warren	31,737	22,559	6,944
Washington	24,216	20,256	2,580

Source: 2001 New York State Statistical Yearbook 26th Edition

Recreation Supply/Needs Assessment

Supply

OPRHP maintains the Outdoor Recreation Facilities Inventory. This inventory keeps track of all the outdoor recreation facilities within New York State. The inventory is continually updated to represent the current supply of recreational opportunities. Table 2-4 shows the type and number of recreation sites within the service area of Moreau Lake State Park. Warren County offers nearly half of the boating opportunities within the region and most of the camping opportunities. This is likely contributed to the fact that part of the county is incorporated within the boundaries of the Adirondack Forest Preserve, which is a major destination area for recreationists.

	Albany	Rensselaer	Saratoga	Schenectady	Warren	Washington	Total
All recreation sites	292	196	259	92	274	102	1215
Boating							
Moorings	572	452	914	45	1442	178	3603
Ramps	15	12	47	6	54	14	148
Camping							
Campgrounds	8	6	29	2	84	11	140
Tent/RV sites	286	756	2672	261	5476	199	9650
Trails	42	27	31	29	68	23	220
Cross-country skiing	15	11	10	11	17	9	73
Golf courses	19	10	20	9	15	9	82
Fishing sites	34	28	46	14	74	36	232
Swimming areas	63	30	66	16	155	25	355
Tennis facilities	64	25	27	12	59	19	206
Court game facilities	77	46	41	17	17	23	221
Field game facilities	92	63	61	18	26	20	280

The Saratoga-Capital District Region, in which Moreau Lake State Park is located, covers an area of more than 2.8 million acres and contains 12 State Parks. The 4,110 acres of Moreau Lake State Park make it the largest state park in the region. The majority of the park's acreage is within Saratoga County.

Demand

OPRHP determines recreation demand through the use of a survey of the general public and the most current population statistics. The survey requests information regarding the number of days a person participates in recreation activities over the past 12 months. The most current population statistics are obtained from the Empire State Development Corporation.

Demand is represented in two ways, "Demand at Origin" and "Demand at Destination" (OPRHP, 2002). These figures are computed for the current population data and projected population data. In the 2003 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), demand was determined for the year 1998 and projected for the year 2020. The estimated percent growth in demand is shown in Table 2-5.

Activity	% Growth in Demand at Origin	% Growth in Demand at Destination
Relax in Park	4.77%	4.83%
Swimming	4.28%	4.70%
Biking	3.50%	3.95%
Golfing	5.36%	6.34%
Jogging/Walking	5.87%	5.88%
Tennis	3.24%	3.26%
Basketball	0.31%	0.37%
Field Sports	2.01%	2.07%
Camping	4.98%	5.64%
Hiking	4.53%	4.87%
Boating	4.71%	5.51%
Fishing	4.77%	5.66%
Ice Skating	3.08%	3.18%
X-Country Skiing	4.91%	5.22%
Downhill Skiing	2.42%	3.34%
Hunting	5.17%	6.20%
Snowmobiling	5.52%	5.87%
Historic Sites	5.82%	6.15%

Demand at origin is defined as the demand for an activity generated by residents within a given geographical location or region. The demand at destination is demand for an activity generated by people who travel to a given geographical location or region. Demand at destination is the figure used in determining recreational need.

Recreational Need

To determine recreational need, the current supply of recreational facilities is compared to projected future demand (OPRHP, 2002). The result is expressed numerically in Table 2-6. This index of need ranges in scale from 1-10. An index of one indicates that in the year 2020 there will be a large availability of recreation resources relative to demand; whereas, a ten indicates that recreation resources in 2020 will not be available to meet demand and most existing facilities will be heavily used (OPRHP, 2002). Intermediate numbers indicate a range of crowding and facilities will need to be replaced over the next 20 years (OPRHP, 2002).

Table 2.6 – Relative Index of Need for the Service Area of Moreau Lake State Park.

Activity	Albany	Rensselaer	Saratoga	Schenectady	Warren	Washington	Service Area (Weighted Average)
Relax in Park	4	4	4	5	3	5	4.1
Swimming	5	5	5	5	3	4	4.6
Biking	6	5	5	5	4	3	4.9
Golfing	5	5	5	5	4	4	4.9
Walking	6	4	4	6	4	3	4.7
Tennis	4	4	4	4	3	4	3.8
Court Games	4	4	5	4	4	5	4.4
Field Games	5	5	5	5	4	7	5.1
Visit Historic Sites	4	4	4	4	4	5	4.0
Camping	6	5	5	5	5	5	5.1
Hunting	6	5	5	5	4	4	4.9
Hiking	6	6	5	6	4	4	5.5
Boating	7	6	5	6	4	4	5.5
Fishing	6	5	5	5	4	4	5.0
Local Winter Sports	4	4	5	3	3	4	3.9
Cross-Country Skiing	6	5	5	6	4	4	4.8
Downhill Skiing	5	5	5	5	4	4	4.5
Snowmobiling	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.0

The table above shows that, within the service area, none of the studied activities are in great need. However, some need is indicated for hiking, boating, camping and field games in the area. Other activities, such as fishing, hunting, golfing, biking and snowmobiling, show that crowding may occur and facilities may require improvement or expansion. The ability for the park to accommodate these needed activities and other studied activities will be evaluated using the information within this chapter and explained in the next chapter.

Adjacent Land Uses

The primary land uses immediately adjacent to the park are the Mount McGregor State Correctional Facility, the Fernwood Fish Hatchery in the Town of Moreau, the former gravel mine located near the intersection of South Road and Old Saratoga Road and the West Mountain Ski Area in the Town of Queensbury. Other uses include DEC Forest Preserve Lands and open space. There are also residential and industrial uses near by. Commercial use is light and limited. The character of the area is generally rural, although suburban

development along the Northway/Interstate-87 Corridor is rapidly expanding (See Map 2 – Adjacent Land Uses).

Police

The park is regularly patrolled by the State Park Police. If situations arise that cannot be directly dealt with by Park Police forces, assistance can be requested from the New York State Police, Saratoga County or Warren County Sheriff's Office. The portion of the park south of the Hudson River is within Saratoga County's jurisdiction and the portion north of the Hudson River is within Warren County's jurisdiction. The Hudson River is considered a State navigable waterway and could be patrolled by any of the following law enforcement entities: Saratoga or Warren County Sheriff's Offices, the New York State Police, the New York State Park Police, New York State Conservation Officers (DEC) or the U.S. Coast Guard.

Fire, Ambulance and Rescue

The area surrounding the park is served by a number of volunteer Fire Departments, Ambulance Services and Rescue Squads. Primary support is supplied by South Glens Falls Fire and the Moreau Rescue Squad. Support also comes from the West Glens Falls Fire Department, the West Glens Falls Rescue Squad, the Luzerne Fire Department, Queensbury Fire Department and Corinth Fire Department. Any of these services can be contacted by using the 911 emergency response system. In all cases the NY State Park Police will be notified.

Educational Facilities and Museums

The park property lies within four main school districts-South Glens Falls, Queensbury, Lake Luzerne and Corinth Central Schools. Saratoga Springs and Glens Falls School Districts also closely border the park's property. Nearby higher educational facilities include Adirondack Community College, located in Queensbury, and Skidmore College and Empire State College located in Saratoga Springs. Other colleges and universities located in the Region include Siena College, State University of New York at Albany, the College of Saint Rose, Russell Sage College and the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

The Chapman Historical Museum contains rooms restored to the time period of 1865-1910. The Hyde Collection Museum features works by such famous artists as Degas, Picasso, Van Gogh, Whistler and more. Both are located in downtown Glens Falls and offer tours and educational guides throughout their facilities; open year round. The Children's Museum is a hands-on museum for children and families in downtown Saratoga Springs. The Tang Museum at Skidmore College offers major shows of contemporary and experimental art.

Ulysses S. Grant Cottage State Historic Site is located on Mt. McGregor within the boundaries of the correctional facility. This cottage is preserved as Ulysses S. Grant left it upon his death in 1885. Grant spent the last 6 weeks of his life writing his memoirs in this cottage. He stayed here with his wife Julia and his family. The Cottage is operated by the Friends of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage and OPRHP. It is open daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day and on weekends through Columbus Day.

The National Museum of Dance is located in one of the renovated bath houses of Saratoga Spa State Park in Saratoga Springs. This Museum is the only museum exclusively devoted to American professional dance. The Museum honors the great figures in dance history, while celebrating its vitality and variety through artifacts and exhibitions, lectures, dance demonstrations and master classes, historic photographs, and famed set designs and costumes.

The National Museum of Racing located in Saratoga Springs, recognizes the achievements of horses, trainers and jockeys and their contributions to racing. The Museum has been housed in Saratoga Springs since 1950 and at its current location on Union Street since 1955.

The Saratoga Automobile Museum opened in the summer of 2002 and occupies the old bottling plant in Saratoga Spa State Park. The museum offers four galleries of vintage car collections and exhibits that look to the future of the automobile. This museum is not just for car buffs but for anyone interested in social and economic history.

The newly established New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center is located in the Lake Avenue Armory in Saratoga Springs. The museum has six display areas including:

- an introduction to the museum and research center;
- information on the formation of the military museum, which includes uniforms worn by New York soldiers in the Civil War;
- Revolutionary War items, including a cannon captured from the British and brought back by Benedict Arnold;
- An exhibit on armories around the state, which includes a recreation of a day room from 1915;
- Displays on New York National Guard units in World War II; and
- Art and photos from the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Health Care Facilities

The park is located between two main hospitals, Glens Falls Hospital and Saratoga Hospital. Additional walk-in medical clinics in the area include: Convenient Medical Care PC in Queensbury, Saratoga Care in Saratoga Springs and the Hudson Headwaters Health Network with offices throughout the area.

Social Services

Local social services offered include the American Red Cross in Warren County, the Department of Social Services on Gurney Lane in Queensbury, Washington County Department of Social Services on Broadway in Fort Edward and the Saratoga County Department of Social Services on West High Street in Ballston Spa.

Map 2 – Adjacent Land Use



OFFICE OF PARKS RECREATION HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE

George E. Pataki, Governor
Bernadette Castro, Commissioner

Moreau Lake State Park

MASTER PLAN

Adjacent Land Use

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Recreational Facilities

Saratoga Spa State Park, located 20 minutes south of Moreau Lake State Park, offers year-round recreational opportunities such as picnicking, golfing, swimming, running, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing. This park has many natural springs that can be visited through a network of short trails. Also the historic buildings of the park are being used by museums, hotels and restaurants.

The Saratoga Performing Arts Center at Saratoga Spa State Park holds many concerts, musical events and other entertainment shows throughout the summer months. Downtown Saratoga Springs has many restaurants and shops to browse. The Saratoga National Historic Park offers several preserved battlefield sites, and is open year round. The Saratoga Race Course is a popular attraction from late July through early September.

The Glens Falls Civic center is a source of many attractions throughout the year including musical concerts, sporting events and entertainment shows. Glens Falls and Lake George also offer a variety of recreational facilities including libraries, movie theaters, skating rinks, bowling alleys and miniature golf. The Great Escape is a popular amusement park located in Lake George, about 20 minutes from the park. Lake George offers swimming, boating, fishing and other water related activities and attractions.

Crandall Park, located in Glens Falls, offers tennis courts, walking trails and lighted cross-country ski trails. Both Saratoga Springs and Glens Falls offer YMCA facilities. The Lake George Bike Trail and the Glens Falls Feeder Canal offer miles of trail to walk or bike.

The Adirondack Forest Preserve boundary is only one and one half miles from the park and the Champlain Canal is just six miles east of Moreau Lake State Park. Both of these areas offer opportunities for many types of outdoor activities, as do the numerous public golf courses located close to the park in both Saratoga and Warren Counties.

West Mountain Ski Area is located in the southern Adirondack Mountains west of Glens Falls, NY. The mountain offers downhill skiing on 22 trails that run through northern hardwood and white pine forests to two base areas. During the summer months the ski area is opened for mountain biking. The top of the mountain offers views of Lake George and the Hudson River Valley.

The Park

History

In 1961, the State Conservation Department began acquiring land in the town of Moreau under a Bond Act to create a public campsite (Vollmer, 1969). By 1967, approximately 600 acres had been acquired and Moreau Lake State Park was established. This new park was transferred to the Capital District State Park Commission. When the Division of Parks and Recreation was separated from the Conservation Department in 1972, administration of Moreau Lake State Park became the responsibility of the Office of Parks and Recreation, which is now known as the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). Later acquisitions increased the park's acreage to just under 900 acres. In 1998, New York State acquired over 3,200 acres from the Open Space Institute (OSI) and Niagara Mohawk. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) acquired the parcels in Warren

County that equal 1,320 acres and OPRHP acquired the 1,920 acres within Saratoga County. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) DEC has agreed that the 1,320 acres they acquired would be managed and operated by OPRHP as part of Moreau Lake State Park. This more than tripled the size of Moreau Lake State Park. Additional acquisitions have further increased the size of the park. As of April 2006 the Park consists of 4,184 acres that are owned by OPRHP and DEC. Saratoga County hosts 2,815 acres of Moreau Lake State Park with 2,634 acres in the Town of Moreau and 181 acres in the Town of Corinth. In Warren County 1,159 acres are within the town of Lake Luzerne and 210 acres are within the Town of Queensbury for a total of 1,369 acres within the county. Moreau Lake State Park is now the tenth largest State Park in New York's park system and the largest park of the Saratoga-Capital District Region.

The only planning document that refers to Moreau Lake State Park is a plan entitled "Master Plan for Outdoor Recreation in the Capital District State Park Region, New York State" written in 1969 by the Vollmer Associates for the Conservation Department-Division of Parks and the Capital District State Park Commission. This plan identifies parcels for acquisition and recommends expansion of park facilities at Moreau Lake State Park (Vollmer, 1969). The current planning effort will be the first Master Plan completed for Moreau Lake State Park.

Park Boundaries

The park occupies more than 4,100 acres within the Towns of Moreau and Corinth in Saratoga County and the Towns of Lake Luzerne and Queensbury in Warren County. The park is divided by the Hudson River, which forms the boundary between Saratoga and Warren Counties.

The portion of the park within Saratoga County is the largest parcel, with approximately 2,800 acres. The northern boundary of this section parallels the south shore of the Hudson River and Spier Falls Road as far north as one third mile up stream of Sherman Island Dam. The property line skirts around a forested parcel that is used as a gravel mine owned by the Town of Moreau. The boundary continues around Palmertown Mountain and heads southeasterly back to Spier Falls road. The boundary is then formed by Spier Falls Road to just before its junction with Potter Rd. On the east, the park is bounded generally by Mountain Road. The boundary follows Old Saratoga Road in a northeasterly direction then turns abruptly southeast to Route 9. Following Route 9 in a southwesterly direction for a short way the boundary crosses to the eastside of Route 9 heads southwest and crosses back to the west-side of Route 9 before meeting with South Road. At South Road the boundary heads north to the intersection of South Road and Old Saratoga Road. From this area, the south end of Moreau Lake, the boundary proceeds northwesterly then turns to a southwesterly direction along the top of the eastern ridge of the Palmertown Range Mountains. The boundary then meets the property of Mount McGregor State Correctional Facility as it crosses from the Town of Moreau into the Town of Corinth and back toward the Hudson River. In the interior of this parcel, there are four small in-holdings of approximately 100 acres.

A parcel of parkland in Saratoga County is included as part of Moreau Lake State Park, but is detached from the main area of the park. This parcel is located along the shores of the Hudson River down stream from the Sherman Island Dam and power generating facility.

This parcel is approximately a one-mile long, 50-foot wide strip (approximately 6 acres) of Hudson River shoreline.

The portion of the park within Warren County is approximately 1,300 acres. This parcel is bounded by the northern shore of the Hudson River from approximately one mile up stream from the Sherman Island Dam, south and west to a short distance past Bennie Brook. The northern boundary follows a jagged route through the Luzerne Mountains, around the Hamlet of Hartman into the Town of Queensbury.

Designations and Legal Constraints on Parkland

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NiMo) (National Grid)

Although the State acquired significant acreage from OSI and Niagara Mohawk (NiMo), the company retained a network of power line transmission corridors which crisscross the property. OPRHP has negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with NiMo to manage and patrol the transmission corridors as State Park land to ensure that these corridors are not used as recreation corridors. This agreement also gives OPRHP permission to establish 12 non-motorized trail crossings and 1 vehicular crossing of the transmission corridors for public trail use and access.

Erie Boulevard Power/Reliant Energy and its Successors

The Spier Falls and Sherman Island hydroelectric power generating stations are operated by the power company that owns the facilities, under a license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Licenses are renewed on a cycle of 30, 40 or 50 years. A 50-foot corridor paralleling the shores of the Hudson River was retained by the power company for the operation of their power generating stations. Under the current 40 year license, the company must improve and maintain two existing boat launches, and install water-accessed campsites and portage trails around Spier Falls and Sherman Island Dams. A Memorandum of Understanding between OPRHP and the power company provides for OPRHP management of the 50-foot corridor and the recreation facilities to be managed as State Park land, exclusive of the areas adjacent to the dam and generating facility.

Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF)

Appropriations from the New York State Land and Water Conservation Fund were used to construct the bathhouse at Moreau Lake. Under the regulations of the LWCF, any park that receives such funding is granted "6F" protection. This means that no part of the park property can be converted for uses other than public recreation.

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

DEC is the owner of the former Niagara Mohawk (National Grid) lands within Warren County. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DEC and OPRHP, these lands will be managed and maintained by OPRHP as part of Moreau Lake State Park. The MOU calls for cooperation between DEC and OPRHP in the planning and development of these lands.

Fernwood Fish Hatchery

The Fernwood Fish Hatchery is located southeast of the park. It is in the floodplain of Moreau Lake. OPRHP has an easement and an agreement with the hatchery to maintain drainage structures and culverts through the hatchery property. These drainage structures and culverts help to control runoff from Moreau Lake.

American Heritage River

In 1997, Governor George E. Pataki nominated the Hudson River to be designated, in 1998, as an American Heritage River. The 315 miles of river, from its source in Lake Tear of the Clouds to the Verrazano Narrows, and the 19 counties surrounding its shores are included in the Heritage River Area. Moreau Lake State Park is included in the Hudson's American Heritage River Area.

Physical Resources

Geology

The underlying bedrock structures the topographic relief and soil development of the region. The underlying bedrock consists primarily of metamorphosed sedimentary rocks, limestones and dolostones from the Ordovician and Middle Proterozoic periods. However, the bedrock beneath the area of Mud Pond and Moreau Lake has not been documented as a result of the extensive glacial and alluvial deposits left during the Quaternary of the Cenozoic Period. Metamorphic rocks of unknown origin, including charnockitic, granitic, and quartz seyenitic gneisses have also been identified (See Map 3 – Bedrock Geology).

South of Old Saratoga Road, the park is underlain by the Canajoharie shales of the Lorraine, Trenton and Black River Groups. These metamorphic rocks formed during the Middle Ordovician Period. As the Taconic Orogeny reached its climax during the Ordovician, a number of normal faults and fractures were formed in the crust. A fault line parallels the Palmertown Ridge just west of Moreau Lake and the day use area. This normal fault structures the topography and drainage in the area along the eastern ridge of the Palmertown Range. In addition, depending upon the specific fault types, this tectonic activity can expose specific geological deposits and/or protective ledges which could possibly have been utilized by early indigenous inhabitants.

Although the tectonic uplifting and metamorphic activity created fold and fractures in the underlying bedrock, glacial activity has been the major recent geomorphological influence. The various retreats and advances of the ice front during the later stages of the glacial movement have both scoured the valleys and deposited soils as drift, till and ground moraine. Evidence of this activity is readily apparent in the existence of water sorted gravel and sands, exposed bedrock, steeply incised walls and the existing drainage patterns in the region. The Surficial geology map (See Map 4 – Surficial Geology) identifies bedrock existing in many locations within the park boundaries. This code indicates that bedrock substances, which are coded on the bedrock geology map (see Map 3 – Bedrock Geology) are exposed or are generally within one meter of the surface.

Topography

Moreau Lake State Park is located in a transition zone between the Hudson-Mohawk Lowland and the Adirondack Low Mountain Physiographic Provinces. The current topographic conditions prevalent in this region developed primarily as a result of the glaciofluvial activities during the waning stages of the Wisconsin Glacial Epoch, and the stabilization of the drainage patterns from Lake Iroquois, Lake Albany and the Proto-Mohawk River. The area exhibits a variety of topographic conditions ranging from steep slopes and gradients to 37%, through rolling plains with gentle slopes from 2% to 9%. Moreau Lake is a naturally formed lake from a glacial kettle pond.

Elevations generally increase towards the northwest. They range upward from a low contour interval of 334 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL) near the water line of the lake, which has an impoundment level of 333 feet MSL. North of the lake is a small wetland area and a larger pond which retains water at a slightly higher elevation. Several peaks and plateaus in the Palmertown Range reach an elevation over 1100 feet MSL. The greatest elevation in the Warren County properties is 1150 feet MSL. Spier Falls Pool is at 433 feet MSL and the Sherman Island Pool is at 370 feet MSL. Topographic relief levels out near the eastern limits of the park which consist of rolling to undulating hills formed from glaciofluvial and alluvial soils along the Spier Falls Road and Mountain Road.

Soils

As noted earlier, many soils of the region were developed as a result of the advances and retreats of glaciers. Glaciation both scoured and filled the valleys with silts, sands and gravels. The following are descriptions of the many soil types found within the area of Moreau Lake State Park.

BdC - Bice very bouldery fine sandy loam, sloping

BdE - Bice very bouldery fine sandy loam, steep

This is a deep well drained soil in wooded areas on hillsides and hill crests on uplands. Boulders and stones about 5 to 30 feet apart are on the surface. Most areas are oval or rectangular and range from 10 to more than 100 acres. Slope ranges from 3 to 45 percent.

Typically, the surface layer is covered with a thin, decomposed leaf litter. The surface layer is light brownish gray fine sandy loam about three inches thick. The subsoil is strong brown, yellowish brown, and olive brown fine sandy loam about 19 inches thick. The substratum is grayish brown sandy loam to a depth of 60 inches or more.

BPC - Bice-Woodstock complex, strongly sloping, stony

BPE - Bice-Woodstock complex, steep, stony

This is a deep to shallow, well drained, loamy soil formed in till, which has slopes ranging from 3 to 35 percent. Surface stones are common. The available water capacity is moderate to high. Permeability is moderate to moderately rapid. Included areas are up to 10 acres and make up about 10 percent of the unit.

Bice soils are on hills, ridges and other convex landforms on glacial till uplands. Slope ranges from 0 to 50 percent. The soils formed in glacial till from gneiss and granite with variable components of sandstone and shale. In some areas a thin silty mantle overlies the till.

Woodstock soils are level to very steep soils on bedrock controlled glaciated uplands. Slope ranges from 0 to 60 percent. The soils formed in friable till derived mainly from light colored schist, granite, or gneiss.

CcD - Charlton loam, 15 to 25 % slopes

Deep, sloping, well drained, low lime, loamy soil formed in till. The soils formed in acid till derived mainly from schist, gneiss, or granite. They are nearly level to very steep soils on till plains and hills. The available water capacity is low to high permeability is moderate. Highly erodible land.

CeC - Chatfield-Hollis complex, rolling, rocky

The Chatfield series consists of moderately deep, well drained, and somewhat excessively drained soils formed in till. They are nearly level to very steep soils on glaciated plains, hills, and ridges. Slope ranges from 0 to 70 percent. Crystalline bedrock is at depths of 20 to 40 inches. Rock fragments are typically gravel or channers but include cobbles and flagstones, particularly just above the bedrock.

The Hollis series consists of shallow, well drained and somewhat excessively drained soils formed in a thin mantle of till derived mainly from gneiss, schist, and granite. They are nearly level to very steep upland soils on bedrock-controlled hills and ridges. Slope ranges from 0 to 60 percent. Permeability is moderate or moderately rapid. Depth to hard bedrock ranges from 10 to 20 inches. Permeability is moderate or moderately rapid.

ChB - Charlton fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 % slopes

ChC - Charlton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 % slopes

ChD - Charlton fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 % slopes

This is a sloping, deep, well drained soil on smooth, convex ridges, on hill crests, and on hill sides on uplands and sides of ridges on uplands and valley sides. Areas of this soil are oval to rectangular and range from 3 to 75 acres.

Typically, the surface layer is very dark grayish brown fine sandy loam about seven inches thick. The subsoil is dark yellowish brown, yellowish brown and light olive brown fine sandy loam about 21 inches thick. The substratum is grayish brown sandy loam to a depth of 60 inches or more.

DeA - Deerfield loamy fine sand, nearly level

The Deerfield series consists of very deep, moderately well drained soils formed in glaciofluvial deposits. They are nearly level to strongly sloping soils on terraces, deltas, and outwash plains. Permeability is rapid in the solum and rapid or very rapid in the substratum. Runoff is slow. Slope gradients are commonly 0 to 3 percent, but range to 15 percent. The soils formed in thick deposits of sand derived mainly from granite, gneiss and quartzite, but in places containing materials from schist and sandstone. The sand is poorly graded; medium sand is generally dominant and typically contains little or no gravel.

Fl - Fluvaquents, frequently flooded

Deep, nearly level, poorly or very poorly drained, variable texture, recent unconsolidated deposits of alluvium on floodplains. The available water capacity is high. Permeability is variable. Hydric.

Fu - Fluvaquents-Udifuluents, frequently flooded

This consists of nearly level to gently sloping soils in areas along streams. It is about 45 percent fluvaquents, 30 percent other soils. These soils are subject to frequent flooding,

which results in stream scouring lateral erosion, and shifting of soil deposits from one place to another. The areas of somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained fluvaquents and well drained or moderately well drained udifluvents are intermingled. Udifluvents are in slightly higher areas of the landscape. Slope ranges from 0 - 5 percent, but is mainly less than 3 percent. Areas are mostly long and narrow and adjacent to secondary streams. A few areas are wider and along larger streams and rivers.

Fluvaquents differ from place to place. Generally, the surface layer is dark brown or dark gray gravelly fine sand to silty clay loam 1 to 6 inches thick. The substratum extends to a depth of 60 inches or more. It is mottled, gray or dark brown sand to silty clay loam. In places it has gravel and stones.

HcA - Hinckley gravelly loamy sand, 0 to 3 % slopes

HcB - Hinckley gravelly loamy sand, undulating, 3 to 8 % slopes

HcC - Hinckley gravelly loamy sand, rolling, 8 to 15 % slopes

HcD - Hinckley gravelly loamy sand, hilly, 15 to 25 % slopes

Deep, sloping, excessively drained, low to medium lime, gravelly and sandy soil formed in outwash. They are nearly level to very steep soils on terraces, outwash plains, deltas, kames, and eskers. Slope is generally 0 to 8 percent on tops of the terraces, outwash plains and deltas. Slope of 8 to 60 percent or more are on the kames, eskers and margins of the outwash plains, deltas, and terraces. The soils formed in water-sorted sand and gravel derived principally from granite, gneiss, and schist. The available water capacity is very low. Permeability is rapid. Potentially highly erodible land.

HnB - Hinckley cobbly sandy loam, 3 to 8 % slopes

HnC - Hinckley cobbly sandy loam, 8 to 15 % slopes

This is a sloping, deep, excessively drained soil on terraces and benches in valleys and on undulating plains. The soil has a high content of sand, gravel, and cobblestones. Most areas are irregular or oval, and range from 5 to 40 acres.

Typically, the surface layer is covered with a thin layer of undecomposed leaf litter. The surface layer is very dark cobbly sandy loam about 4 inches thick. The subsoil is dark brown very gravelly loamy sand and dark yellowish brown, gravelly, sand about 23 inches thick. The substratum is olive brown, stratified, very gravelly sand to a depth of 60 inches or more.

HoA - Hoosic gravelly loam, nearly level

HoB - Hoosic gravelly loam, undulating

The Hoosic series consists of very deep, somewhat excessively drained soils formed in glacial outwash. They are nearly level to undulating on outwash plains, terraces, kames, eskers, and moraines. The soils formed in water-sorted sandy and gravelly material contain varying proportions of sandstone, shale, phyllite and slate. Slope ranges from 0 to 60 percent. Bedrock is deeper than 60 inches.

HpC- Hinckley-Plainfield complex, sloping

HpE- Hinckley-Plainfield complex, steep

This unit consists of deep, excessively drained sandy and gravelly soils in sloping areas on outwash plains and steep areas of terraces and benches in upland valleys. It is about 45 percent Hinckley soils, 35 percent Plainfield soils and 20 percent other soils. Areas of these soils are mostly oval to rectangular and 10 to 50 acres. Hinckley and Plainfield soils are in such an intricate pattern on the landscape that they could not be separated at the scale selected for mapping. Slope ranges from 3 to 15 percent.

The surface layer of the Hinckley soil in this complex are typically covered with a thin layer of undecomposed leaf litter. The surface layer is very dark cobbly, sandy loam about 4 inches thick. The subsoil is dark brown very gravelly, loamy sand and dark yellowish brown, gravelly sand about 23 inches thick. The substratum is olive brown, stratified, very gravelly sand to a depth of 60 inches or more.

In areas of Plainfield soils, the surface layer is also covered with a thin layer of undecomposed leaf litter. The surface layer is very dark, grayish brown, loamy sand about 10 inches thick. The subsoil is about 15 inches thick. In the upper part it is yellowish brown sand, and in the lower part it is light olive brown sand. The substratum is light brownish gray sand to a depth of 60 inches or more.

LyA- Lyme very stony fine sandy loam, nearly level

This is a nearly level to gently sloping, deep, poorly drained soil in low-lying areas and along small drainage ways on uplands. Slope ranges from 0 to 8 percent, but are dominantly 0 to 3 percent. Permeability is moderate or moderately rapid. The water table is at or near the surface for 7 to 9 months in most years.

Typically, the surface layer is covered with a layer of decomposed leaf litter. The surface layer is black fine sandy loam 8 inches thick. The subsoil is mottled and about 17 inches thick. In the upper part it is dark grayish brown fine sandy loam, in the middle it is dark yellowish brown, fine sandy loam, and in the lower part it is dark grayish brown, sandy loam to a depth of 60 inches or more.

Ms - Massena silt loam

Very deep and deep, nearly level, somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained, low-lime, loamy soil formed in glacial till. They are nearly level to strongly sloping soils that formed in glacial till dominated by siliceous rock with some limestone. The available water capacity is moderate. Permeability is moderately slow to slow. Potentially highly erodible land. Potential hydric inclusions.

Mu - Middlebury fine sandy loam

This is a nearly level, deep, moderately well drained and somewhat poorly drained soil on flood plains in valleys. Slope ranges from 0 to 3 percent.

The surface layer is typically very dark grayish brown, fine sandy loam about 10 inches thick. The subsoil is a brown and mottled, olive brown, fine sandy loam about 30 inches thick. The substratum is mottled, dark yellowish brown, fine sandy loam to a depth of 60 inches or more.

OaB - Oakville loamy fine sand, 3 to 8 % slopes

OaC - Oakville loamy fine sand, 8 to 15 % slopes

This is a sloping, deep, well drained soil on outwash plains and on dissected side slopes and knolls on outwash plains. The surface layer is dark brown loamy fine sand about 8 inches thick. The subsoil is yellowish brown and light olive brown, sand about 19 inches thick. The substratum is light olive brown and dark grayish brown sand to a depth of 60 inches or more.

OeE - Oakville and Windsor soils

Deep, steep, well to excessively drained, low lime, sandy soil formed in outwash. The available water capacity is very low. Permeability is rapid. Highly erodible land.

The Oakville series consists of very deep, excessively drained soils formed in sandy eolian deposits on dunes and beach ridges on outwash plains, lake plains, and moraines. Slopes

range from 0 to 60 percent. The depth to the base of soil development ranges from 18 to 65 inches. These soils have a regular decrease in organic matter with increasing depth. Well drained. The potential for surface runoff is negligible to low. Permeability is rapid. Some areas are rarely flooded on low stream terraces.

The Windsor series consists of very deep, excessively drained soils formed in sandy glacial outwash. They are nearly level to very steep soils on glaciofluvial landforms. Slope ranges from 0 to 60 percent. Permeability is rapid or very rapid throughout. Excessively drained. Surface runoff is slow to medium.

Pm - Palms muck

A deep, nearly level, very poorly drained, medium to high lime, organic soil formed in waterlogged bogs. Organic material is 16 to 51 inches thick over mineral soil material in closed depressions on moraines, lake plains, till plains, outwash plains, hillside seep areas, and in back swamps of floodplains. The available water capacity is high. Hydric. They have moderately slow to moderately rapid permeability in the organic material and moderate or moderately slow permeability in the loamy material. Slopes range from 0 to 6 percent. Depth to the seasonal high water table ranges from 1 foot above the surface to 1 foot below the surface from November to May.

PoE - Plainfield and Oakville soils, steep

This consists of deep, excessively drained and well drained soils on side slopes of benches and terraces. The map unit consists of approximately 40 percent Plainfield soils, 35 percent Oakville soils, and 25 percent other soils. Slope ranges from 15 to 35 percent.

The surface layer of the Plainfield soils is dark grayish brown, loamy sand about 10 inches thick. The subsoil is yellowish brown and light olive brown, sand about 15 inches thick. The substratum is light brownish gray, sand to a depth of 60 inches or more.

The surface layer of the Oakville soils is dark brown, loamy fine sand about 8 inches thick. The subsoil is yellowish brown and light olive brown, sand about 19 inches thick. The substratum is light olive brown and dark grayish brown, sand to a depth of 60 inches or more.

Pv - Pits, sand and gravel

Soils in this map unit consist of very gravelly, loamy sands in areas of 0 to 15 % slopes. These soils are deep, well to excessively drained sands and gravels. These soils have high hydraulic conductivity and low water holding capacity. The depth to the water table is more than 6 ft. These soils have severe limitations that make them unsuited to cultivation and restrict their use for grazing.

Ro - Rock outcrop

This consists of large areas of rock outcrops on landscapes that range from nearly level mountain tops to very steep mountain sides and hillsides on uplands. It is about 90 percent areas of rock outcrops and 10 percent soils. Some places have nearly vertical ledges and cliffs, and thus the surface configuration commonly differs within short distances. Slope ranges from 0 to 65 percent.

Sa - Scarborough mucky loamy sand

The Scarborough series consists of very deep, very poorly drained soils in sandy glaciofluvial deposits on outwash plains, deltas, and terraces. They are nearly level soils in depressions. Slope ranges from 0 to 3 percent. Permeability is rapid or very rapid. Surface runoff is negligible. The water table is at or near the surface for 6 to 12 months of the year, and many areas are ponded for short periods.

TNC - Tunbridge-Lyman complex, strongly sloping, very rocky

TNE - Tunbridge-Lyman complex, steep, very rocky

Shallow, 3-15 percent slopes, somewhat excessively drained, loamy soil formed in till. The available water capacity is moderate. Permeability is moderately rapid.

The Tunbridge series consists of moderately deep, well drained soils on glaciated uplands. They formed in loamy glacial till. Permeability is moderate or moderately rapid. Slope ranges from 0 to 75 percent. The soil occurs on mountain side slopes, mountain tops, mountain ridges, hill tops, and hill slopes. The soil was formed in loamy glacial till of the Wisconsin age derived mainly from micaceous schist, gneiss, and phyllite. The depth to bedrock ranges from 20 to 40 inches.

The Lyman series consists of shallow, somewhat excessively drained soils formed in glacial till. They are on rocky hills, mountains and high plateaus. The soils developed in a thin mantle of glacial till and frost fractured rock fragments derived principally from gray, greenish gray, or nearly black mica schist rocks with lesser amounts of phyllite, granite and gneiss. Permeability is moderately rapid. Slope ranges from 3 to 80 percent. Depth to bedrock ranges from 10 to 20 inches.

To - Tioga fine sandy loam

This is a nearly level, deep, well drained soil on flood plains along major streams. Slope ranges from 0 to 3 percent. Tioga soils formed in recent alluvium, mainly from areas of sandstone, siltstone and shale. The potential for surface runoff is negligible to low.

Ud- Udorthents, smoothed

This map unit consists of areas that were excavated or filed with material derived from sandy, gravelly, or loamy soils. The material from most areas that were excavated was used as road fill in the construction of the Adirondack Northway. Other areas consist of filled or leveled areas used for parking lots, recreation areas, sanitary landfills, and for other similar uses. These areas have small pits that were the source for this material. Slope ranges from 0 to 15 %.

Many areas of Udorthents, smoothed have been covered with topsoil and seeded. Other areas have been smoothed, graded and left bare. Some areas are droughty because available water capacity is very low. Permeability ranges from moderate to very rapid. Topsoil and fertilizer are needed to establish a plant cover in bare areas.

Wa- Wareham loamy sand

This is a nearly level deep, poorly and somewhat poorly drained soil in depressions on sandy plains and on low benches in valleys. Slope ranges from 0-8 percent. Permeability is rapid. Wareham soils occur in outwash plains, deltas and stream terraces in areas that receive run-on water. The soils formed in sandy glaciofluvial materials derived from granite and gneiss.

- WnA - Windsor loamy sand, nearly level*
WnB - Windsor loamy sand, undulating, 3 to 8 % slopes
WnC - Windsor loamy sand, rolling
WnD - Windsor loamy sand, hilly

The Windsor series consists of very deep, well to excessively drained soils formed in sandy glacial outwash. They are nearly level to very steep soils on glaciofluvial landforms. Slope ranges from 0 to 60 percent. Permeability is rapid or very rapid throughout. The available water capacity is low. Thickness of the solum ranges from 10 to 36 inches. Potentially highly erodible land. Surface runoff is slow to medium.

Included with this soil in mapping are small areas of moderately well drained Deerfield soils, and well drained, fine sandy Oakville soils. Also included are areas of gravelly Hinckley soils. Included areas are up to 5 acres and make up about 30 % of the map unit.

- WoC - Woodstock-Rock outcrop complex, sloping*
WoE - Woodstock-Rock outcrop complex, steep

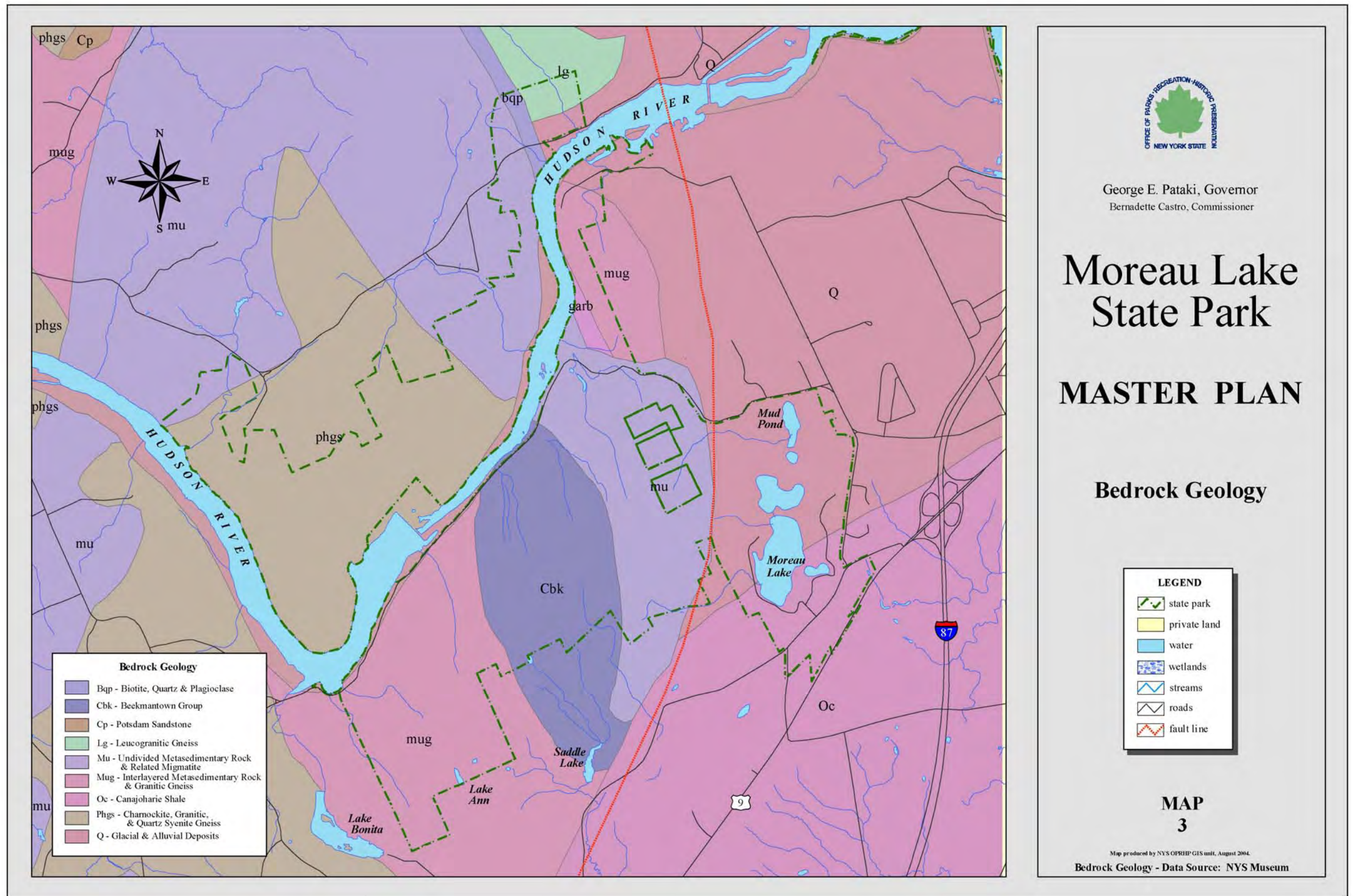
This map unit consists of shallow, somewhat excessively drained or excessively drained Woodstock soils and areas of rock outcrop in bedrock-controlled areas on hillsides, hill crests, and mountaintops. It is about 50-55% percent Woodstock soil, 20 -30 % rock outcrop, and 20 to 25 % other soils. The Woodstock soil and areas of rock outcrop are in such an intricate pattern on the landscape that they could not be separated at the scale selected for mapping. Slope ranges from 15 to 45 % but is dominantly more than 20 %.

Typically the surface layer of the Woodstock soil is very dark grayish brown fine sandy loam about 2 inches thick. The subsoil is dark yellowish brown and yellowish brown, fine, sandy loam about 16 inches thick. Granite bedrock is at a depth of 18 inches.

Rock outcrop consists of exposures, faces, and ledges of shist, gniess or granite bedrock.

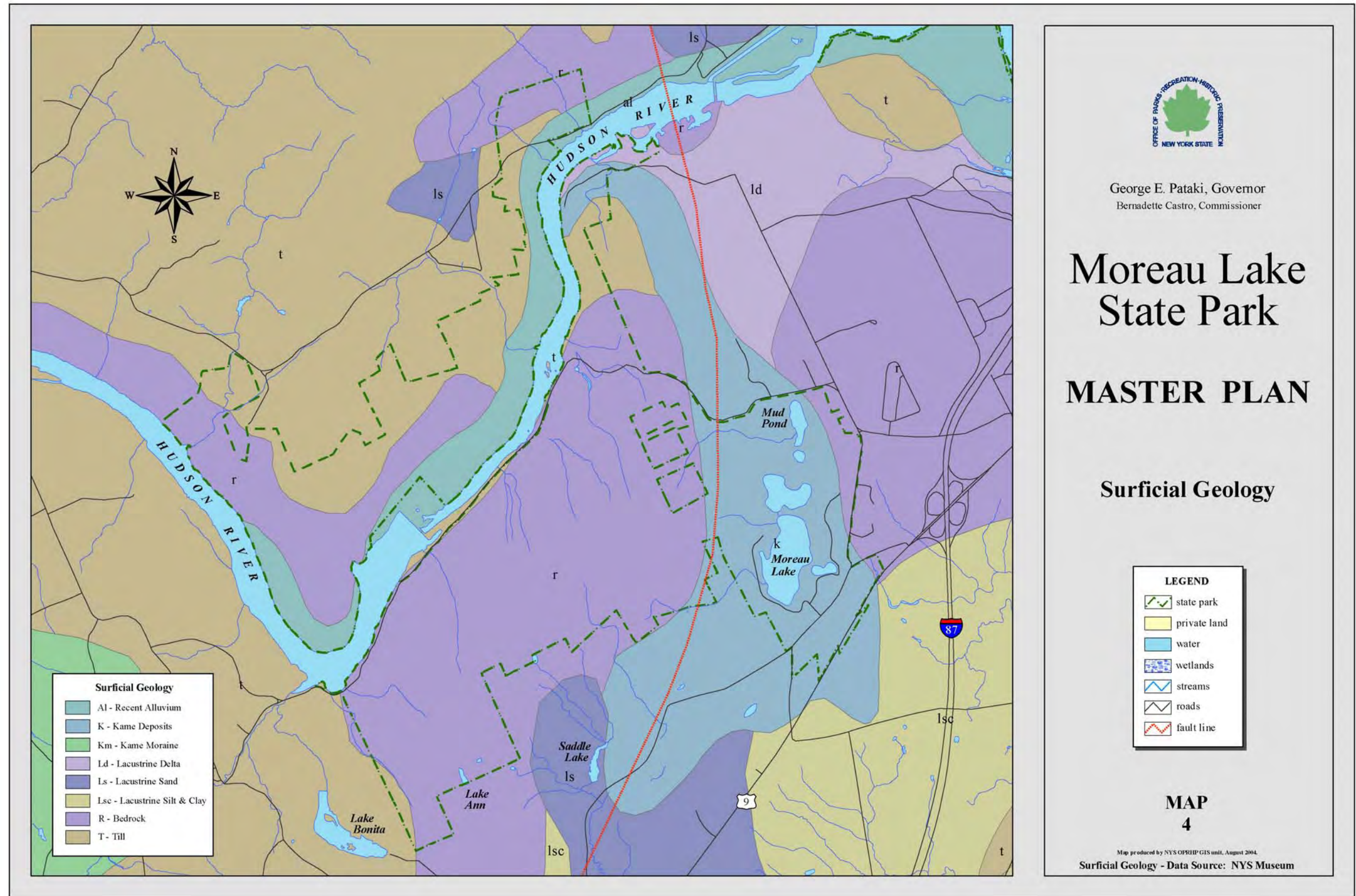
Included with this unit in mapping are some large areas of shallow soils less than 10 inches deep. Also included, in places, are areas of the deep Bice, Stowe, Hermon and Marlow soils. Also included are areas of Schroon, Peru, and Lyme soils in low areas and along drainageways and small areas of stone rubble accumulated at the base of many slopes. Areas of included soils are as much as 10 acres and make up 20 % of the map unit.

Map 3 – Bedrock Geology

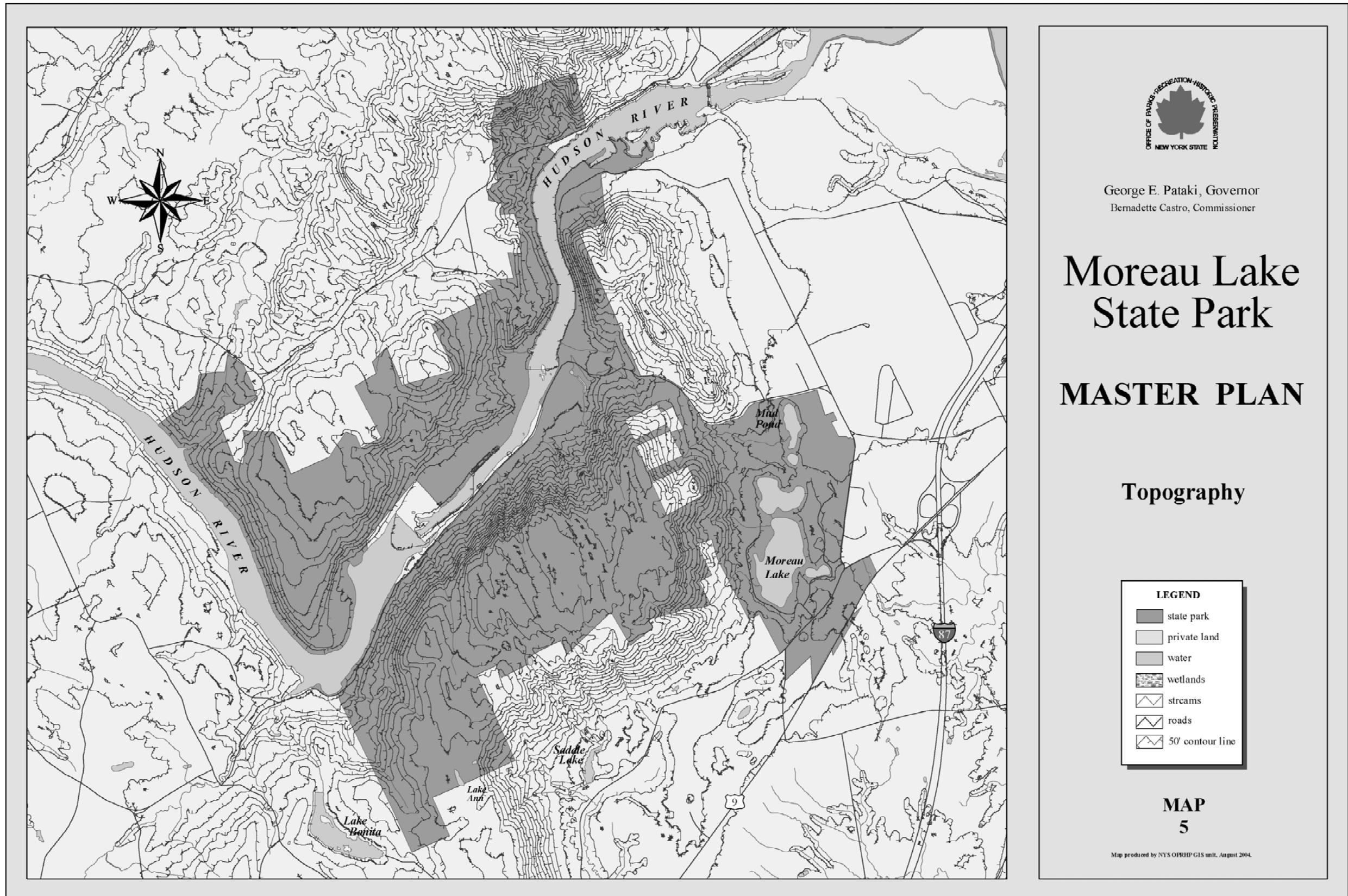


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Map 4 – Surficial Geology

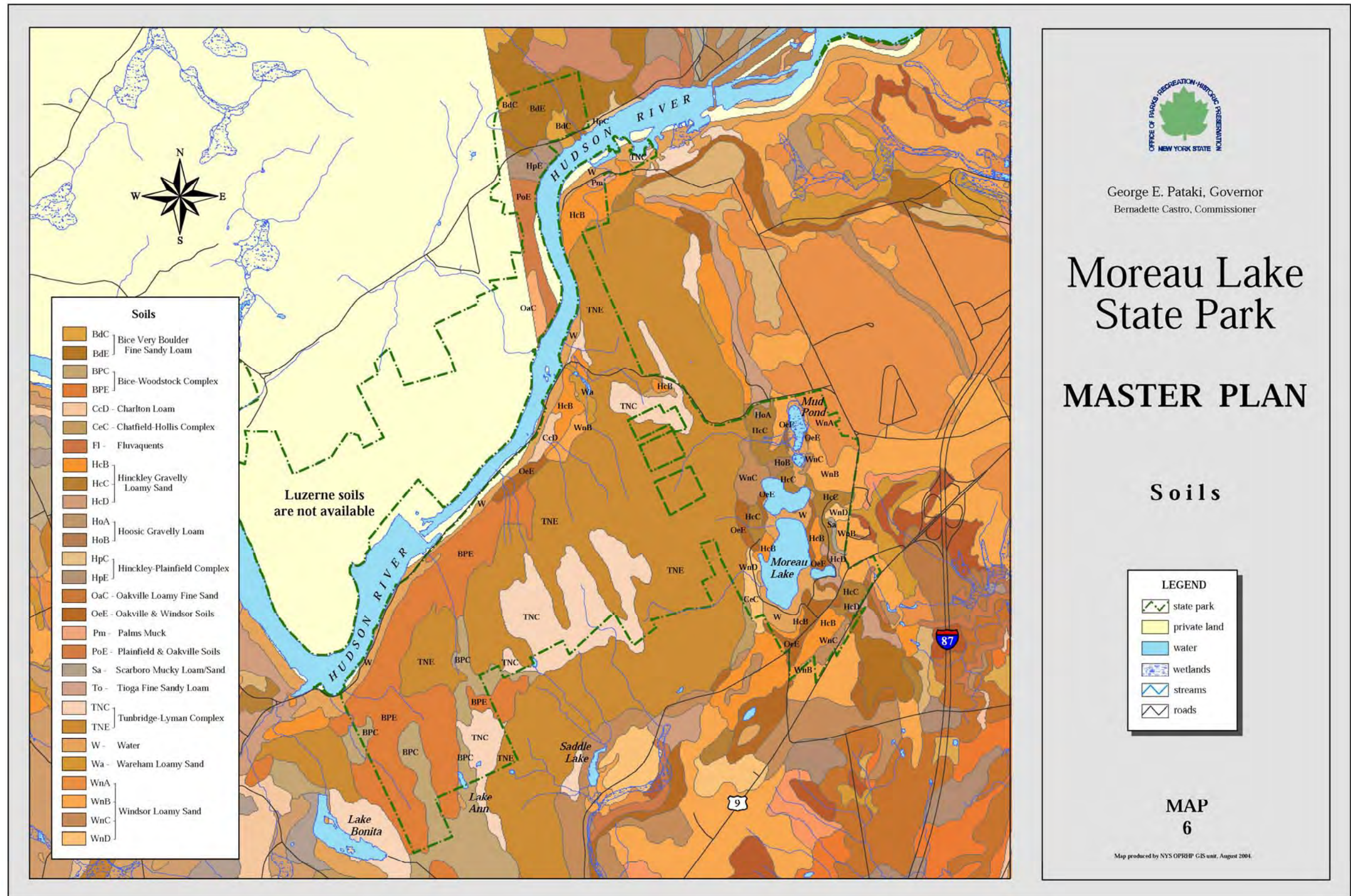


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Map 6 – Soils



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Water Resources

The main drainage patterns within the park were established after the retreat of the glaciers during the Wisconsin Stage. Situated in the Hudson River Watershed, drainage through the region is generally towards the Hudson River. However, within the area surrounding Moreau Lake, surface flows tend to be easterly and westerly converging at Moreau Lake; all ancillary drainage empties into the lake or its associated impoundments. Three streams, including the Mill Creek, are located in the Moreau Lake watershed and channel the overland flows from the Palmertown Range into the lake. In addition, at least seven small, intermittent streams can be discerned. Two creeks in the eastern section of the park flow in a general southeasterly direction, crossing Mountain Road.

Lake Ann

Lake Ann, located in the southwest corner of the park, is a small, bog-like lake approximately one acre in size. Lake Ann was identified by the Natural Heritage Program report as a bog lake community. Bog lakes are typically low in all types of aquatic organisms, including fish. Many bog lakes have no fish at all most likely due to the highly acidic water (Reschke, 1990). Water samples and site visits to Lake Ann indicate that the lake is very acidic (pH 4.3) and has brown stained water that is low in nutrients and oxygen. A floating mat of vegetation that contains black humus rims the lake. Although peat mosses (*Sphagnum* spp) are most prevalent, many other bog plants can be found at Lake Ann. It is currently not accessible to the public from park trails. It is not used for water supplies or for recreational purposes.

Moreau Lake

Moreau Lake has a surface area of 128 acres with 3.6 miles of shoreline, a mean depth of 32 feet and a maximum depth of 50 feet. Its watershed area totals 469 acres. The water level of the lake fluctuates naturally and is dependent on weather conditions. The lake receives water by direct precipitation, surface runoff and underground flow; it loses water by evaporation, transpiration, surface overflow and subsurface outflow. There is an outlet control structure at the south end of the lake that controls overflow and protects adjacent property within the floodplain of Moreau Lake.

The 2002 Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) report for Moreau Lake State Park indicates the average readings as follows:

Phosphorus (ml/l)	0.006
Chlorophyll a (mg/l)	1.46
Secchi Disk Clarity (m)	8.11
pH	7.65
Conductivity	123
Color	4.0
Nitrate	0.01

CSLAP has classified Moreau Lake as an oligotrophic lake, one with a low accumulation of nutrients and high clarity. None of the primary statistics noted since 1985 have indicated a trend toward eutrophication. Moreau Lake's pH is adequate to support most aquatic organisms; the water remains relatively soft and weakly colored. The water quality conditions

continue to be stable, with little change and are considered to be generally good to excellent and are highly favorable for fish and other aquatic organisms.

The report "Rare Species and Ecological Communities of Moreau Lake State Park" produced in March 2000 by the NY Natural Heritage Program identified Moreau Lake as being a eutrophic dimictic lake. This classification was not made through water quality testing as the CSLAP report was, but rather through observation and delineation from aerial photography. Map 9 shows the ecological community analysis done by the NY Natural Heritage Program.

In 1990, the DEC Region 5, Inland Fisheries department tested for chemical contaminants in fish fillets taken from Moreau Lake and the concentrations of the chemicals tested were found to be very low.

Hudson River

Moreau Lake State Park includes seven miles of shoreline property along the Hudson River. Included in this reach of river are the Spier Falls and Sherman Island hydroelectric dams. The Hudson River has been designated an American Heritage River by the Federal Government.

Generally the water quality of this section of the Upper Hudson is rated "good", despite a few significant water quality issues. Chemical pollution of the Hudson River and its fish is of special concern. The most serious water quality problem is PCB contamination of the bottom sediment below Hudson Falls and Fort Edward. The NYS Department of Health's (DOH) 2002-2003 Health Advisories for Sportfish and Game recommends the following for the area of Moreau Lake State Park. Eat no more than one meal per month of Smallmouth Bass over 14 inches in the reach of the river from the Corinth Dam to the dam at the Route 9 Bridge in South Glens Falls. This advisory is due to Mercury contamination. Also, there is an advisory to consume no more than one meal per month of Carp of any size caught between the Sherman Island Dam downstream to the Feeder Dam in South Glens Falls due to PCB contamination. This advisory was initiated in 1995 because of PCB contamination associated with a hazardous waste disposal site.

There is no consumption advisory for the Sherman Island or the Spier Falls impoundment due to PCB contamination even though a PCB remediation site is located within the Sherman Island impoundment. The following information is taken from DEC's website and explains the conditions of the PCB remediation site.

"This site is on property owned by Niagara Mohawk located along the Hudson River. The property was leased for use as seasonal residences. The site is approximately 0.8 miles upstream from the Queensbury Water Treatment Plant. An area adjacent to one of the seasonal residences (which has been removed) is near the river and is terraced. An area of soil was contaminated either by dumping of 37,737 ppm on the river bank and 86.5 on the river bottom adjacent to the shore. Niagara Mohawk completed a pair of Interim Remedial Measures at the site involving the removal and proper disposal of contaminated soil from areas with high PCB levels. The responsible party has completed a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study under the terms of a Consent Order. A Record of Decision was issued in March 1995 and divided the site into two Operable Units (OP UNIT 1 and OP UNIT 2). OP UNIT 1 addressed the dry portion of the site including the near-shore sediment that was exposed by lowering the Hudson river a total of four

feet. The removal of contaminated soil and exposed contaminated sediment associated with this operable unit are complete. OP UNIT 2 addresses the rest of the contaminated sediment. A supplemental Feasibility Study under this operable unit is underway.

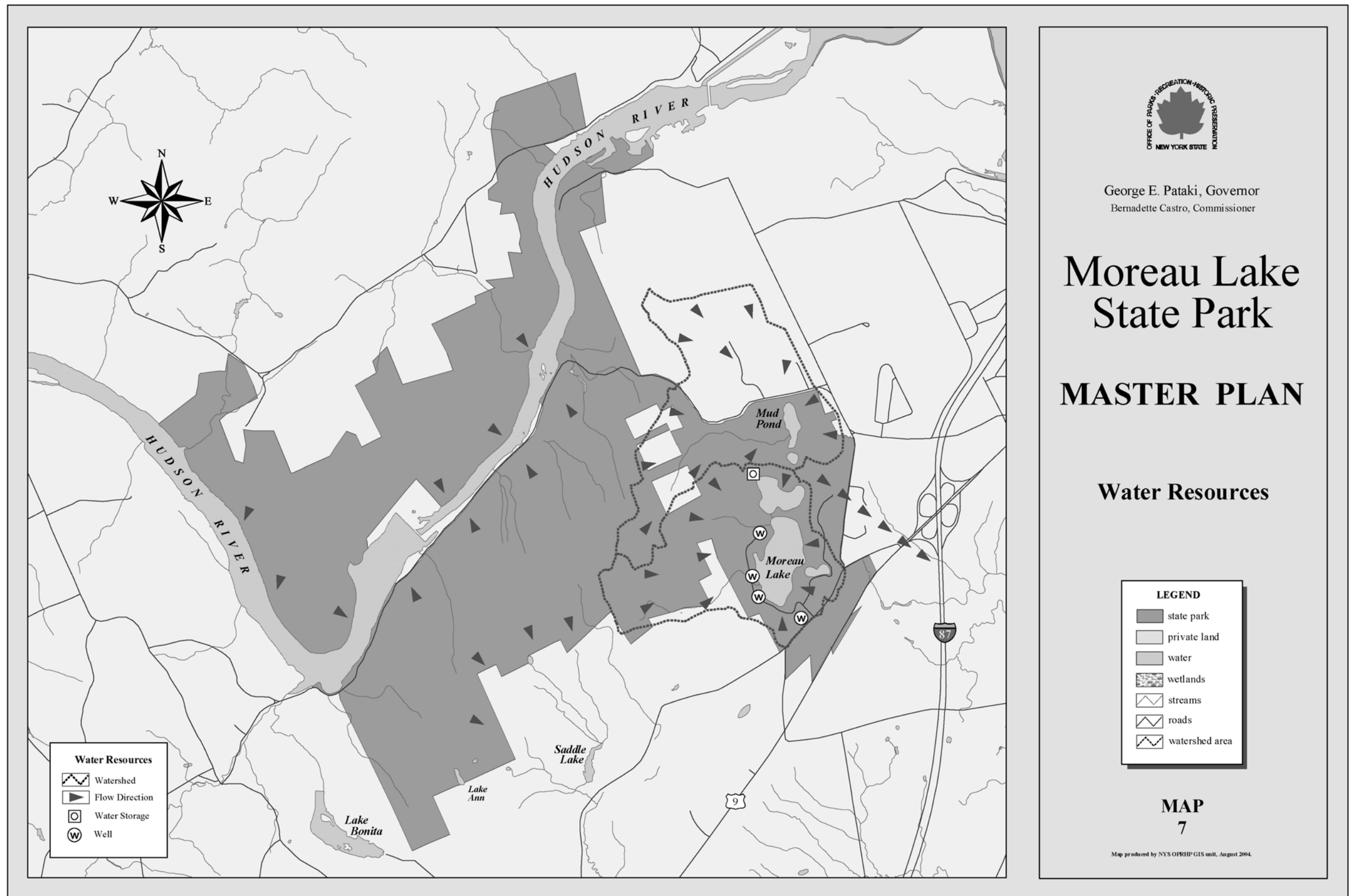
River bottom sediments contaminated with PCB's remain in a localized area adjacent to the site. The intake at the Town of Queensbury public water supply is downstream and the water supply is monitored quarterly. No PCBs have been detected. An annual fish sampling program starting in 1995 shows a decrease of PCB levels in fish. There is no longer a special advisory against consumption of fish from the Sherman Island Pool. The need for future advisories will be evaluated based on results of ongoing monitoring. Remedial options to address PCB contaminated sediments area being evaluated.

Based upon this information, OPRHP has concluded that this site does not pose a threat to recreational use of this section of the river. In addition, OPRHP will continue to consult with DEC on the progress of the remediation.

DEC's "Rotating Intensive Basin Studies" (RIBS) testing of the Upper Hudson River does not test in the immediate vicinity of Moreau Lake State Park. However, a site located up stream from the park in the Town of Corinth, was tested during 1993-94. The results of this test show that the water quality has improved substantially since 1972, based on higher species diversity. This site is currently rated as "fair" due to slight impacts to the macroinvertebrate community and a fair fishery assessment. There are some indicators of "good" water quality, including the existence of relatively few parameters of concern in the water column. Testing showed elevated levels of calcium, copper and lead to be of concern, however, further analysis demonstrated no evidence of significant toxicity.

The next closest testing site is located in the Village of Waterford, downstream from the park and the industrial sites in Glens Falls, Hudson Falls and Fort Edward. The water quality of this area is rated as "poor" due to the number of parameters of concern in the water column, bottom sediment and macroinvertebrate tissue. The fishing ban in the area from Hudson Falls to the Troy Dam was lifted in 1995 and catch-and-release fishing is now allowed. A consumption advisory from DOH is still in effect in this stretch of river, recommending that no fish of any species be consumed.

The stretch of river within the park's boundaries has a best use designation of a Class B stream, indicating that the river water can be used for primary and secondary contact recreation and fishing.



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Air

The air quality in Saratoga and Warren Counties is considered to be in attainment of meeting all of the air quality requirements. All of the measured pollutant levels were significantly lower than those required by the National Ambient Air Quality Standard, and fall under the Pollutant Standards Index category of having "good" health effects.

Biological Resources

Flora

The following information is taken from a report done by New York State's Natural Heritage Program entitled "Rare Species and Ecological Communities of Moreau Lake State Park" (Evans, 2000). Eighteen distinct natural community types were identified within Moreau Lake State Park. Map 8 shows the location and extent of each of the community types which are listed in Table 2.9 below along with the acreage of each community:

System	Subsystem	Community Type	Acres
Terrestrial	Forested Uplands	Appalachian oak-pine forest	653
		Beech-maple mesic forest	1024
		Beech-maple mesic forest (successional)	22
		Chestnut oak forest	11
		Hemlock northern hardwood forest	2254
	Successional northern hardwoods	9	
	Barrens and Woodlands	Calcareous talus slope woodland	30
	Open Uplands	Successional old field	9
Palustrine	Forested Mineral Soil Wetland	Hemlock-hardwood swamp	35
		Red Maple-hardwood swamp	2
		Vernal pool	<1
	Open Mineral Soil Wetland	Deep emergent marsh	1
		Shrub swamp	5
	Open Peatland	Highbush blueberry bog thicket	3
Lacustrine	Natural Lakes and Ponds	Bog lake/Dwarf shrub bog	1
		Eutrophic dimictic lake	142
		Eutrophic pond	5
Riverine	Natural Streams	Intermittent stream	
Terrestrial Cultural		Developed (campgrounds, parking areas, picnic grounds, etc.)	32

Note: Acreage figures add up to more than the total park acreage because the NHP maps communities to their extent, which means that community acreage includes areas that extend beyond park boundaries.

Complete descriptions of all communities listed can be found in Reschke (1990). A total of 32 acres of disturbed land are typed as "developed". Disturbed and/or artificially maintained areas are, from an ecological standpoint, considered functionally similar and were thus all labeled as "developed". These areas include all major roads, power lines, pipelines and gravel mines that fall within the boundary of the park, as well as any residential areas and maintained recreation areas.

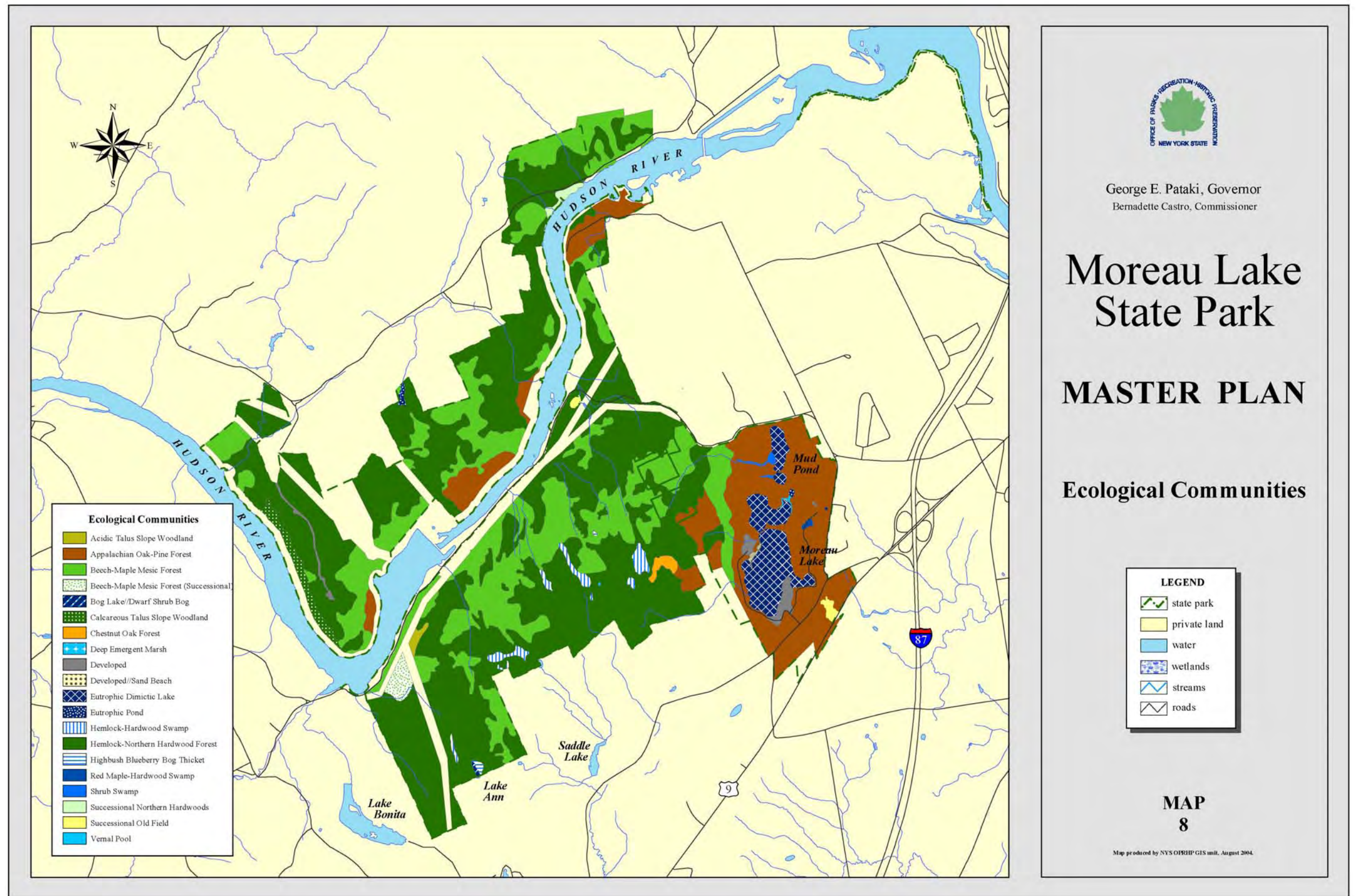
Large stands of hemlock-northern hardwood forest and associated beech-maple mesic forests dominate the landscape of the park. Although portions of the hemlock-northern hardwood community have been previously logged, signs of recent logging were limited to the western side of the park in proximity to the power line. This logging took place prior to

OPRHP ownership. Because these communities occupy ravines, some of the rockiest slopes and mountaintops, the generally rugged nature of the hemlock forests makes them difficult to log with any efficiency. Therefore, even those that have been logged received only light selective cutting, limited to the most readily accessible areas. Some areas have apparently not been disturbed since the area was first settled and now support stands of mature hemlock-northern hardwood forest. These mature forests display many characteristics of old growth forest, including extensive wind throw gaps, a variety of age classes and coarse woody debris classes, pit-and-mound topography and scattered, impressively large trees. These occur on the steep slopes of the western bank of the Hudson River.

The beech-maple mesic forest within the area has been extensively logged, some of it just a few years before OPRHP took ownership. Beech-maple communities are situated on hilltops, hillsides and mountaintops on moist, generally deeper, well-drained soils. A portion of the beech-maple mesic forest on the western side of the park, which was logged, now essentially lacks an overstory component of maple and supports heavy beech regeneration. This portion of the community is represented in the community delineation as successional beech-maple mesic forest and assumes that, overtime sugar maple recruitment will occur. Although many have been selectively logged, all other areas of beech-maple maintain the overstory, understory and ground cover components of a beech-maple mesic forest as defined by Reschke, (1990).

Other, less abundant, forest communities in the park include Appalachian oak-pine forest, chestnut oak forest, successional northern hardwoods, acidic talus slope woodland, hemlock-hardwood swamp and red maple hardwood swamp. Several nice examples of wetland community types were also observed on park land. Occurring in small patches of less than 5 acres, the dominant forested wetland of the park is hemlock-hardwood swamp. These communities typically occur in bedrock depressions at high elevations and are characterized by mounds of sphagnum interspersed with pockets of black, partially decomposed muck which grades into a black, fine, sandy loam at depths of around 15 to 20 centimeters. Other wetland types within in the park include the marshes and shrub swamps associated with Moreau Lake and vicinity. Small examples of the common deep emergent marsh and shrub swamp communities are part of the system of lakes and ponds around Moreau Lake. A less common wetland community complex consisting of the bog lake known as Lake Anne, a small dwarf shrub bog and a 3-acre highbush blueberry bog thicket was also found within the park.

Map 8 – Ecological Communities



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Fauna

Fish

According to the DEC Bureau of Fisheries, database, several common game fish species such as brown bullhead, chain pickerel, large and smallmouth bass, rainbow trout, and yellow perch can be found in Moreau Lake and Pond. Other non-game fish include golden shiner, pumpkinseed and white sucker. Moreau Lake is stocked each spring with trout species from Fernwood Fish Hatchery by Saratoga County. Bennie Brook may contain brook trout and brown trout. The section of the Hudson River within the park contains brook and brown trout, brown bullhead, rock and smallmouth bass, yellow perch and walleye. Non-game fish identified in this section of the Hudson River include central mudminnow, carp, common shiner, blacknose dace, creek chub, fallfish, white sucker, brook stickleback, pumpkinseed and slimy sculpin.

Birds

No formal surveys of the park property have been conducted for the purpose of identifying or inventorying the bird life of the park. Park staff did conduct a mid-winter survey for Bald Eagles along the Hudson River during the winter of 2004-2005. The New York Breeding Bird Atlas, a joint project of the New York State Ornithological Association, DEC and Cornell University, surveyed the entire state in 1980-85. An update of the Breeding Bird Atlas (Atlas 2000), begun in 2000, is currently in progress. Moreau Lake State Park is represented by survey Block numbers 5978A, 5978B, 5978D, 5979D and 6078A. Appendix A contains the species lists from the Atlas 2000 project.

In 1998, the "Friends of Moreau Lake" produced a birding checklist which consists of birds seen in or near Moreau Lake State Park. This list also gives an indication of how common sightings are and which season sightings are most likely to occur. This list is also presented in Appendix A.

Other Fauna

Although no field studies regarding animal populations have been conducted on the park, comparative studies based on similar ecosystems have generated a list of animals that have the potential to occur within Moreau Lake State Park. This list is presented in Appendix B.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species and Significant Communities

Significant Communities

Two significant natural communities exist within the park. These are two large occurrences of hemlock-northern hardwood forest (separated by the Hudson River) and one occurrence of calcareous talus slope woodland.

In the park, the calcareous talus slope woodland community lies on a steep west-facing slope on the north side of the Hudson River. This community occurs in a mature beech-maple mesic forest, unbisected by roads or other types of corridors. Blocky talus in the area ranges from <10 cm to <100 cm in size and occurs at 70-100 percent cover along the slope. Plant species occurring in this particular community are listed in Table 2.10.

The two occurrences of hemlock-northern hardwood forest lie on each side of the Hudson River. The occurrence on the north side of the Hudson River lines the bank of the River and contains several intermittent streams that run off the east and south-facing slopes in to the Hudson. A wetland complex of moderate size associated with Beaverdam Brook forms the western boundary of the community and the Hudson River and residential areas of West Glens Falls line the eastern edge. The occurrence on the south side of the river covers mid-high levels of the Palmertown Mountain Range. It lines intermittent streams that run off the northwest- and southeast-facing slopes of the mountain range. Several small hemlock-hardwood swamps, highbush blueberry bog thickets and vernal pools occur in shallow depressions across the higher elevations of this occurrence. The plant species found in this community type are listed in Table 2.11.

Rare Plants

Natural Heritage Program records show no known occurrences of rare plants within Moreau Lake State Park. This is not to mean that rare plants are not located within the park, it only signifies that the Natural Heritage database does not include any within the park boundary. Comparative studies with similar ecosystems generated a list of rare plant species with the potential to occur within the park. These species are listed in Appendix C.

Rare, Threatened or Endangered Animals

The Natural Heritage Program has no records of rare animals in Moreau Lake State Park, so field surveys for rare, threatened and endangered animals were conducted around wetlands and the Hudson River. These surveys identified two species of rare dragonflies. In July 1994, *Brachycercus maculatus*, part of a rare group of mayflies, was collected in the Northeast for the first time in the Hudson River at Corinth, NY. Moreau Lake State Park manages the shoreline property of the Hudson River near the collection site. Up until this point, *Brachycercus maculatus* has been thought to exist only in north-central Florida and parts of North Carolina.

Because of the park's proximity to existing populations of the Karner blue butterfly, an extremely rare species, habitats with the potential to support populations of this butterfly were identified and surveyed. No butterflies were observed in the park.

Breeding and migratory bird species that may occur in the park are identified in Appendix A. The park regularly supports NYS threatened Pied-billed Grebe and Bald Eagle, and special concern Common Loon, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will.

Other comparative studies with similar ecosystems generated a list of rare, threatened endangered or species of special concern that have the potential to occur within Moreau Lake State Park. This list appears in Appendix C.

Map 9 – Significant Ecological Communities



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Trees	Shrubs and Vines	Herbs	Non-vascular
Sugar maple (<i>Acer Saccarum*</i>)	Striped maple (<i>Acer pensylvanicum*</i>)	Swamp Jack-in-the-Pulpit (<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>)	<i>Anomodon attenuatus*</i>
Yellow birch (<i>Betula alleghaniensis*</i>)	Mountain maple (<i>Acer spicatum</i>)	Wild Ginger (<i>Asarum canadense</i>)	<i>Brachythecium sp.*</i>
American beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia*</i>)	Round leaf dogwood (<i>Cornus rugosa*</i>)	White wood aster (<i>Aster divaricatus</i>)	<i>Mnium sp.</i>
White ash (<i>Fraxinus americana</i>)	Witch hazel (<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>)	Silvery spleenwort (<i>Athyrium thelypteroides</i>)	<i>Plagiothecium laetum</i>
Red oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>)	Virginia creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia*</i>)	Sedge (<i>Carex rosea*</i>)	<i>Platydicta confervoides</i>
American basswood (<i>Tilia americana</i>)	Maple-leaf viburnum (<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>)	Sedge (<i>Carex plantaginea</i>)	<i>Thuidium recognitum</i>
	Gooseberry (<i>Ribes cynobasti</i>)	Enchanter's nightshade (<i>Circaea alpina</i>)	<i>Tortella tortuosa</i>
	Elder (<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>)	Bulblet fern (<i>Cystopteris bulbifera*</i>)	
		Marginal woodfern (<i>Dryopteris marginalis*</i>)	
		Helleborine (<i>Epipactis helleborine (EX)</i>)	
		White snakeroot (<i>Eupatorium rugosum*</i>)	
		Fragrant bedstraw (<i>Galium triflorum</i>)	
		Herb Robert (<i>Geranium robertianum</i>)	
		Sensitive fern (<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>)	
		Christmas fern (<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>)	
		False Solomon's seal (<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>)	
		New York fern (<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>)	
		Foamflower (<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>)	
		Starflower (<i>Viola rotundifolia</i>)	

Note: *= Most abundant species, (EX) = exotic species.

Trees	Shrubs and Vines	Herbs	Non-vascular
Red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)	Striped maple (<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i> *)	Maidenhair fern (<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>)	<i>Leucobryum glaucum</i>
Sugar maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i> *)	American hornbeam (<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>)	White sarsaparilla (<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>)	
Yellow birch (<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>)	Huckleberry (<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>)	Swamp Jack-in-the-Pulpit (<i>Arisaema triphylum</i>)	
Paper birch (<i>Betula papyrifera</i>)	Witch Hazel (<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> *)	White wood aster (<i>Aster divaricatus</i>)	
American beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i> *)	Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>)	Lady fern (<i>Athyrium felix-femina</i>)	
White ash (<i>Fraxinus americana</i>)	Virginia creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>)	Sedge (<i>Carex albursina</i>)	
American basswood (<i>Tilia americana</i>)	Raspberry (<i>Rubus strigosus</i>)	Sedge (<i>Carex arctata</i>)	
Eastern hemlock (<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> *)	Blueberry (<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>)	Sedge (<i>Carex pensylvanica</i> *)	
Eastern hophornbeam (<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>)	Blueberry (<i>Vaccinium pallidum</i>)	Spotted coralroot (<i>Corallorhiza maculata</i>)	
Eastern white pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>)	Maple-leaf viburnum (<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>)	Evergreen woodfern (<i>Dryopteris intermedia</i> *)	
Black cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)	Hobblebush (<i>Viburnum alnifolium</i>)	Marginal woodfern (<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>)	
White oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>)		Beech drops (<i>Epifagus virginiana</i>)	
Chestnut oak (<i>Quercus montana</i>)		Oak fern (<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>)	
Red oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i> *)		Club moss (<i>Lycopodium digitatum</i>)	
		Tree club moss (<i>Lycopodium obscurum</i>)	
		Canada mayflower (<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>)	
		Indian Cucumber-root (<i>Medeola virginiana</i>)	
		Partridgeberry (<i>Mitchella repens</i>)	
		Fringed polygala (<i>Polygala paucifolia</i>)	
		Solomon's seal (<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>)	
		Christmas fern (<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i> *)	
		Small-flowered crowfoot (<i>Ranunculus allegheniensis</i>)	
		New York fern (<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i> *)	
		Foamflower (<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>)	
		Starflower (<i>Trientalis borealis</i> *)	

Note: * = Most abundant species

Wetlands

Several nice examples of wetland community types were also observed within the park. Occurring in small patches of less than 5 acres, the dominant forested wetland of the park is hemlock-hardwood swamp. These communities typically occur in bedrock depressions at high elevations and are characterized by mounds of sphagnum interspersed with pockets of black, partially decomposed muck which grades into a black, fine, sandy loam at depths of around 15 to 20 centimeters. Other wetland types within in the park include the marshes and shrub swamps associated with Moreau Lake and Mud Pond. Small examples of the common deep emergent marsh and shrub swamp communities are part of the system of lakes and ponds around Moreau Lake. The wetland complex to the north of Moreau Lake is mapped as DEC regulated wetland GA-1. It is a Class 2 wetland consisting of approximately 30 acres. A less common wetland community complex consisting of the bog lake known as Lake Anne, a small dwarf shrub bog and a 3-acre Highbush blueberry bog thicket was also found within the park.

Cultural Resources

The following information was taken from three "Stage 1A and limited Stage 1B Cultural Resource Investigation" reports for Moreau Lake State Park. The first report was prepared by Collamer and Associates in 1992 and the second and third reports were prepared by Hartgen Archeological Associates in July and December of 2002. The study area of the 1992 report included the 900 acre area of the park before the 1998 acquisitions and a one mile radius around the park. This radius encompasses some of the newer portions of the park. The July 2002 report included the lands purchased in 1998 that are situated south of Spier Falls Road in the Towns of Moreau and Corinth. Historic information for the parcel north of the Hudson River, located in the Towns of Luzerne and Queensbury, was taken from the December 2002 report.

Prehistoric Resources

The first human inhabitants of the Northeast most likely entered the area during the retreat of the glaciers of the late Wisconsin period. Paleo-Indians traveled in small bands following the migration of animals. Habitation sites consisted of open-air camps, procurement sites and kill sites. Two sites were identified in Saratoga County. Both are near the Hudson bend northeast of the park. In addition, there may be sites located along the Palmertown Range and the Luzerne Mountains within Moreau Lake State Park.

Similarly sites of the Snook Kill and Lamoka Phases of the Archaic Stage have been located at the "Big Bend" of the Hudson River. The Transitional Stage, a short period between the Late Archaic and Early Woodland Stages, has its roots in the Susquehanna drainage basin. Three sites located within 10 miles of the park are believed to be of the Transitional Stage. The Weir Site is situated along the Hudson River northeast of the park and the Snook Kill and the Henderson Sites are located southeast along the Hudson River.

During the Woodland Stage, more permanent settlements were established. A number of sites are located along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers. In this area of the Upper Hudson River Valley the Indian trail known as the "Great Carry" was used as a portage from above the falls in Glens Falls to the Fort Edward area. The present day Route 9 generally follows this trail.

Other known Woodland Stage sites within the region of the park include a number of early camps or villages near the mill pond on the Snook Kill and a six acre site in Warren County near the "Big Bend" of the Hudson River. Two camp sites were identified in the Town of Moreau near the bend in the river.

The entire region surrounding the park is considered to be potentially sensitive for prehistoric sites because of the physiographic features and its natural resources. The Hudson River would have served as a main transportation corridor and the availability of resources such as outcrops, chert and limestone make the area conducive to procurement and habitation sites for native peoples. The topography is also believed to be preferable for use as occupation sites. The potential for the area of the park to have prehistoric sites and to have been used for hunting-gathering grounds is moderate to high.

Historic Resources

The town of Moreau was established in 1805 after separating from Northumberland. Jean Victor Moreau, a French general, visited the area in 1804 and the community is named after him. Elijah Parks of Salisbury, Connecticut, purchased 800 acres in the area and built a dwelling at South Glens Falls. Several of his sons and in-laws further settled the area. The elder Parks may have constructed a saw mill prior to the Revolution on the Hudson River which was later burned by General Burgoyne. His son Daniel is said to have organized a militia which marched on Fort George and seized it in 1775 from the British. The elder Parks and some of his family were killed by a raiding party during the Revolution.

By the 1870s, four sawmills, a planing mill, box factory, and four lime kilns were all operating in the Town of Moreau. Paper manufacturing concerns and stone works, offering construction grade flagstone, marble and limestone were all in operation. Many industries were established that utilized the available water power and forest resources. Extensive logging for lumber and tanbark took place in the entire area through the 18th and 19th centuries. Papermaking and textile mills were also in operation.

The area around Moreau Lake was originally a summer home and estate developed by George W. McAdam, a wealthy attorney. The lands were acquired over a 20 year period beginning in 1881. From 1935 to 1940 the area began to develop as a seasonal campground. The natural lake, existing forests and topography offered a scenic area for swimming, camping and other recreational activities. By 1940, the area of the park had been developed with dirt access roads along the southwestern and southeastern areas around Moreau Lake. Between 1940 and 1949, cabins or residences were constructed along the shores of Moreau Lake. The lands were obtained by the New York State Conservation Department in 1961 and became the Moreau Lake State Park.

Settlement of the Town of Lake Luzerne centered on agriculture and timber harvesting. The Hudson River was used to float logs, in what is called a log drive, to sawmills downstream. Landowners in the area built their homes in the passes that transect the Luzerne Mountains. The "Trail to Jessups" roughly corresponds with the road that runs along the north bank of the Hudson River. At least a dozen residences were built along this road. The road has mostly reverted to trail and park access ends at the boundary for the Spier Falls Facility. Archeological remains of the homes along this road may exist.



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Construction of the Spier Falls Dam, which spans the Hudson River between the Town of Moreau and the Town of Lake Luzerne, began on June 20, 1900. The project was the brainchild of Glens Falls lawyer and businessman Eugene Ashley. At the time it was built, the Spier Falls Dam was the fourth largest dam in the world. Glens Falls Entrepreneur William E. Spier largely funded the project and for this reason the dam was named in his honor. Support structures associated with the construction of the dam may be located along the shores of the Hudson River within the park boundary.

Approximately one mile below the dam, a little community was built to accommodate the employees who labored at the construction of the "great enterprise". This community came to be known as Cottage Park. The Imperial Hotel, which is believed to have served visitors and dam construction managers, burned to the ground in 1930. The stone wall surrounding this settlement can still be seen today across from the boat launch on Spier Falls Road. Many of the workers also built homes for themselves in a communal fashion with family or other workers. Their village of small huts and gardens was located a little way below the dam on the Warren County side of the river.

Historical period resources may be represented by archeological remains of residences, abandoned logging camps or sawmill facilities within the mountainous terrain. Sawmill remains would most likely be found within proximity of the streams that cross local roads. Archeological features associated with the Spier Falls Dam may still exist on the banks of the Hudson River.

The following listing of historic archeological sites and structures pre-dating 1950 are located within the park.

- 1 **The Rhenbottom, Conklin and Ellison building sites (ca. 1866)** - Located along the Spier Falls road, the cellar holes of the Rhenbottom and Conklin sites are visible and at the Ellison location, the cellar hole and portions of a possible fieldstone foundation.
- 2 **The Imperial Hotel (ca. 1900)** - Extensive stone foundations, stairways and cellar holes are all evident.
- 3 **George W. McAdam House and outbuildings** - An existing structure was purchased by McAdam in 1882, and subsequently enlarged as his summer home, "Fernwood". The site is south of the walk-in camping area and west of Campsite #36.
- 4 **Camp Building site** - Circa 1940-49, located east of the access road to the west of the lake.
- 5 **Schoolhouse No. 7** - Rural school building constructed ca. 1856, now incorporated into the Park's maintenance complex.
- 6 **Sweet Family Cemetery** - Pre-dates the one remaining gravestone of Almeda Sweet who died in 1855. The stones from additional burials have been removed.
- 7 **Storage Building (ca. 1930)** - Situated on the southern shore of the lake and originally part of a private camp. 1.5 story, 29 x 33 feet, constructed of peeled logs.
- 8 **Lakeshore Cottage (ca. 1940)** - Western side of lake, has own well and large porch on northern side. 1 story, 29 x 36 feet. Originally part of a Girl Scout camp.
- 9 **Park Garage (pre-1949)** - Single story wood frame building appears on 1949 topographic map.
- 10 **Park Building (pre 1949)** - Eastern side of lake, 1 story frame building, appears on 1949 topographic map.
- 11 **Spier Falls Dam (ca. 1909)** - A major feature of the Hudson River as it flows through park lands, along Spier Falls Road.

Map 11 – Cultural Resources



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Recreation Activities and Resources

Moreau Lake State Park's lake lies amid hardwood forests, pine stands and rocky ridges. Shady groves of trees shelter picnic grounds with play structures and a pavilion overlooking the lake. Wooded campgrounds and facilities for group campers, as well as tent and trailer sites are available. The sandy beach, nature, hiking and cross-country ski trails, opportunities for boating, fishing and ice fishing, and proximity to Saratoga Springs and Lake George make the park attractive to visitors. Located on the beach road, is the Lakeshore Cottage, a full service accommodation. The cottage provides everything from a refrigerator, stove, dishes and utensils to a screened porch, bathroom with shower, bedding, pillows and a cozy fireplace.

The park is open year round. Camping season runs from mid-May through mid-October. The beach is open for swimming from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Deer hunting is permitted in designated areas in season. Vehicle access in the winter months is limited. Maps 12 and 12a show the park's major recreation areas.

Boating

There are a total of three boat launches in the park. One is located on the southern shore of Moreau Lake. No gas or electric powered motors (including ice augers in winter) are allowed on Moreau Lake. The Day Use Area also offers a boat rental service. Fourteen rowboats and nine paddleboats are available for the public to rent on an hourly basis and use on Moreau Lake. Rowboats seat a maximum of four passengers. Life vests are required for each person in all rental boats. The park also issues boating permits to patrons who wish to use and store their own boats on Moreau Lake. The park issues approximately 25 permits at \$30 each per year.

The remaining two launches are located on the south shore of the Hudson River off of Spier Falls Road. The first is called the Sherman Island Boat Launch and is located on a bend where Spier Falls Road turns west along the river. This launch has a gravel ramp with 15 car/trailer parking spaces. Space for 10 additional cars is available at picnic sites and along Spier Falls Road at the entrance to the launch. The area offers picnic tables and 2 portable toilets seasonally. The second launch, the Spier Falls Boat Launch, is approximately four miles up stream of the Spier Falls Dam. This launch has a cement ramp with five to six parking spaces and one picnic table. Boats with motors are allowed on the Hudson River.

Camping

In the vicinity of Moreau Lake, the Park offers 148 tent /trailer camping sites around seven camping loops, some of which are accessible to disabled persons. Each site can accommodate two vehicles and two tents. Many of the larger sized sites can accommodate large trailers and recreational vehicles. These sites are heavily used throughout the summer months. Many sites are in poor condition due to use impacts (i.e. soil compaction, scarred trees, pad creep, and erosion). None of the sites provide electric or septic hookups. A dumping station is provided for self contained campers and potable water is available at numerous locations within each loop. Each loop is also serviced with a comfort station. A shower building is centrally located within the camping area.

During the 2002 camping season Moreau Lake State Park achieved an occupancy rate of 62.22%. Moreau Lake is among the top ten State Park Campgrounds with the highest occupancy rates.

In addition to these camp sites, the park has a walk-in camping area for tents and a full service cottage.

Traditionally, campers have used the small lots and pull-off sites on Spier Falls Road to park their campers during the summer months and hunting season. This practice has been monitored and discontinued since OPRHP has taken ownership and management responsibilities of the surrounding land.

Cabins/Cottages

Currently there is no cabin camping within the park. There is however, a full-service cottage available for weekly rentals. The cottage comes fully furnished, has a full kitchen, bed linens and sleeping accommodations for up to six people. It is not currently equipped for access by persons with disabilities. This cottage is located along the southwest shore of Moreau Lake before reaching the day use and beach area.

Group Camping- Walk-in

The walk-in group camping area is located along the camping Trunk Road between Loop B and the lake. The area consists of six tent sites, a small picnic pavilion with tables, cooking grill, small comfort station and can accommodate up to 35 people. The area has traditionally been used by scouting, church and other not-for-profit groups; but, it has recently been opened for use by the general public.

Primitive Water-Accessed Camping

According to the power company's license agreement with the FERC, it is required to provide a total of four primitive water-accessed campsites within the Spier Falls and Sherman Island Impoundments. The power company, in consultation with OPRHP and DEC, selected and constructed four sites. These sites are located within the portion of the regulated FERC boundary that is managed by OPRHP. The analysis and site selection process is outlined in Appendix D. The first location provides two campsites at the mouth of Bennie Brook and the second location has two campsites at the mouth of Hartman Creek (See Map 12).

These sites are intended to be accessed from the water via boat, canoe or kayak and occupied for one or two nights. They are occupied on a first-come/first-served basis and no fee, registration or reservation is required. The sites consist of a cleared area with a fire ring. No further amenities are provided.

Day Use Area-Moreau Lake

Parking

The day use area is served by a 350 space parking lot. This lot is surfaced with asphalt and provides parking for the picnic pavilion, rental tents, picnic area, beach, nature center and boat rentals.

Picnicking

The day use area is located on the western side of Moreau Lake, which offers a picnic area, three rental tents and a picnic pavilion. The picnic area has 190 tables and 90 grills. The picnic pavilion has a capacity of 120 people and provides electrical service and lighting. The largest of the three rental tents has a capacity of 50 people, while the other two can accommodate approximately 30 people each. For a fee, groups may rent the pavilion or tents for larger picnics and occasions. The day use area also includes play structures, a volleyball court and several horseshoe pits.

Swimming

The park has a 300-foot swimming beach located at the northwest corner of the lake. The area offers a bathhouse, comfort station and volleyball court. The swimming area is roped off into four swimming sections in Moreau Lake. Swimming is permitted from Memorial Day through Labor Day from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Swimming is only permitted when lifeguards are on duty. The First Aide station is also open when lifeguards are on duty. The facility capacity of the beach is approximately 1,000 people. This capacity is never reached.

Food and Concessions

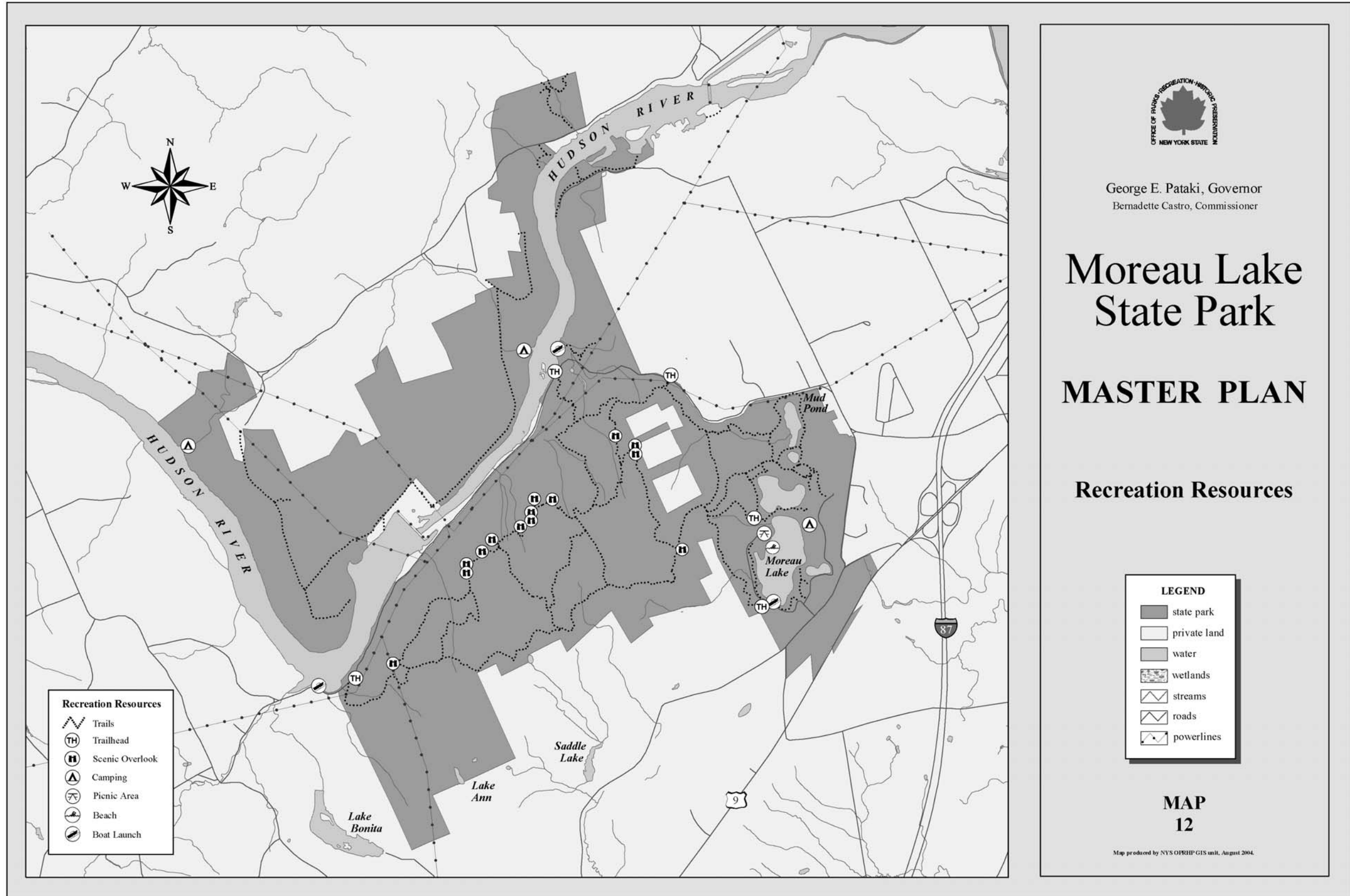
There is a concessionaire operated food and beverage stand located in the southeast part of the bathhouse building complex. The snack bar is open seasonally and services both day use and camping patrons with food, beverages and a selection of toiletries and other camper needs.

Two soda/drink vending machines are located at the campers shower building.

Hunting and Fishing

Hunting is permitted in the park in designated areas and in season. Safety zones are established around developed areas. Hunters must possess a valid New York State hunting license issued by DEC and obey all hunting rules and regulations. In addition, a permit to hunt on park lands is required and is issued from the Park Office. Hunting seasons may be modified by the park but generally follow the seasons out lined by State hunting regulations.

Fishing is permitted on Moreau Lake and the Hudson River. Moreau Lake is stocked by Saratoga County each spring with trout species. In winter, ice fishing is permitted on both Moreau Lake and the Hudson River when conditions allow. However the use of powered augers is prohibited on Moreau Lake. Fishermen over the age of 16 must possess a valid New York State fishing license issued by the DEC and obey all park and DEC fishing rules and regulations.



George E. Pataki, Governor
Bernadette Castro, Commissioner

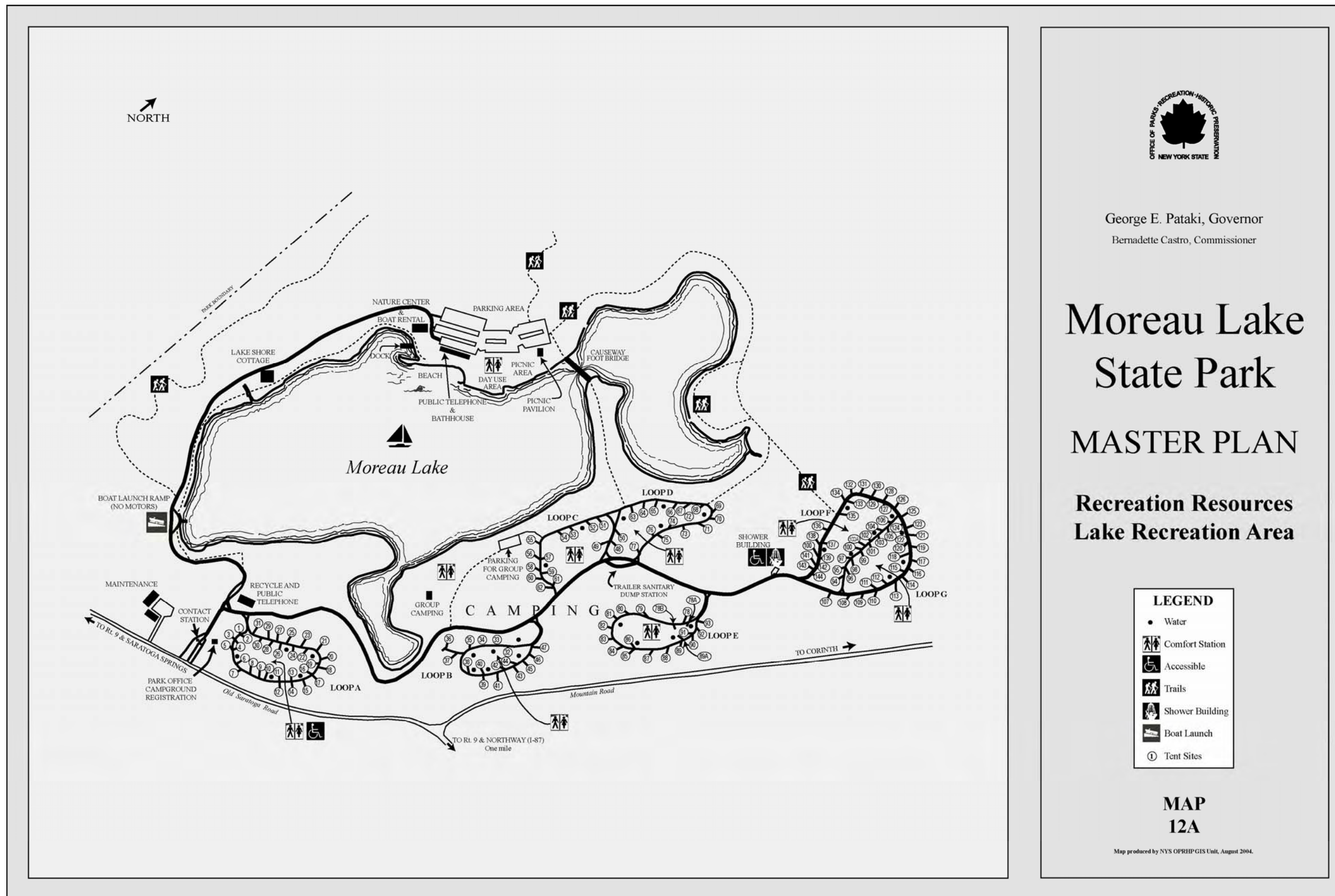
Moreau Lake State Park

MASTER PLAN

Recreation Resources

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Map 12A – Recreation Resources Lake Recreation Area



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Interpretation Programs

Moreau Lake State Park offers a number of recreation and nature interpretation programs. The park offers a Nature Center where a wide variety of environmental programs and exhibits, in addition to recreational programs, are offered daily during the Spring, Summer and Fall months. These programs include nature and wildflower hikes, fishing, casting and fish filleting demonstrations. There are regular presentations on native mammals, environmental scavenger hunts, slide and video programs and special events such as a nighttime bat walk and black bear talks given by experts in the field.

During the winter months the nature center staff leads both regular and snowshoe interpretive hikes on the many trails.

Parking

Parking along the Spier Falls Road/Hudson River shoreline is limited. There are a number of small pull-off areas for hunters and hikers who wish to access trails. Small parking lots are also available at the boat launches on Spier Falls Road.

Parking is also available in the campground area for walk-in campers. Campers park their vehicles in this lot and walk their equipment into the camp site.

Picnicking

There are a number of pull-off areas and small parking locations along Spier Falls Road that may be used for informal picnics. There is one table located at the Spier Falls boat launch and several tables located at the Sherman Island boat launch. No grills are provided in these areas.

Swimming

Currently, swimming is not permitted in the Hudson River. The park has a 300-foot swimming beach roped off into four swimming sections on Moreau Lake. This is the only swimming area in the park.

Trails

The Park offers more than 20 miles of trail. The trails that exist in the northern parcel have not been fully inventoried or designated for any particular use. This trail system currently consists of old logging roads, dam access roads, or trails created through user activity. These trails are not clearly marked or signed. Users that may frequent these trails include: equestrians, snowmobilers, hikers and bikers.

The open trails are located in the portion of the park south of the Hudson River. A trails plan exists for this portion of the park and has approved nearly 20 miles of trail. The trails located in the southern section of the park have been inventoried. Most are marked/blazed and maintained by the park. All trails are considered multiple-use trails. The terrain of these trails provides a natural stratigraphy for the various trail user groups. For example,

equestrians prefer the wider, more level trails of the area surrounding Moreau Lake, where as the hikers seeking a more challenging experience will climb the steeper trails. There are both guided and self-guided nature trails in the vicinity of Moreau Lake. In the winter, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing is permitted on the trails normally used for hiking and on unplowed roads. Snowmobiling does not currently take place within this area of the park.

There is evidence of ATV use throughout the park. However, this is limited to the newer properties to the north and south of the Hudson River. Since OPRHP ownership this use has been monitored and reduced. Use of ATV's on park property is illegal and is enforced by regular park patrols.

In addition to many informal paths through the campground area, there are a number of longer distance and scenic trails. The following descriptions are of these longer distance and scenic trails that currently exist on the park. These trails are blazed/marked and maintained:

- Lakeside Trail** – This trail begins down the hill from the gates to the day use area, where there is a green hiking trail marker in the ground. Once out of the trees the trail turns to the left and follows the upland vegetation line through the sand and near some benches. It is about 0.21 mi. to the boat launch. About 350 ft. further, the trail leaves the shoreline to travel through the trees. At 0.36 mi. the trail reaches a bridge over a feeder stream to the rental cottage area. Around the cottage the trail continues through the trees until it reaches the Nature Center. Total trail distance is 0.65 mi.
- Nature Trail** – This trail basically circles the north end of Moreau Lake, although the lake is not often visible from the trail. The Nature Trail features two interpretive paths. It begins at the northeast corner of the back parking lot, across the lot from the Moreau Overlook trailhead. This is also the beginning of the first interpretive section of the trail, where there are signs describing basic natural features of the park. The junction with the Red Oak Ridge trail is at 0.28 mi. on the left. From here the trail turns uphill to the right, then it levels out a bit until, at 0.4 mi., the interpretive loop leaves the main trail to the right. After traveling steeply downhill the interpretive loop follows the lakeshore and then into the woods back toward the main trail for a total of 0.19 mi. (If one wished to take the trail back to the parking lot at the juncture, the total distance would reach 0.82 mi.) Meanwhile, the main trail continues straight. At around 0.47 mi. it meets the Mud Pond Trail (marked in orange) and bears right. The trail reaches a junction with Wetland Walk interpretive trail (marked in white) at 0.62 mi., and meets the other end of the Mud Pond loop at 0.69 mi. 200 ft. past where the trails meet, the main trail comes to a “Y”; it takes the right arm of the “Y” around a corner and up a slight hill, and continues until it reaches a paved road in the camping loops. The trail follows the road for about 680 ft. until it takes a right turn downhill towards the lake. The trail continues straight until it crosses the bridge over the narrow neck between the north part of the lake and the main lake. From the bridge, it is only another 0.1 mi. through the picnic area back to the parking lot. Total trail distance, excluding the loops off the main trail, is 0.83 mi.
- Wetland Walk** (white blazes) begins as a spur of the Nature Trail. The trail is 0.22 miles long and meets with the Mud Pond Trail. The entire interpretive loop is 0.27 mi. long, and circles around back to the Nature Trail. This trail has numbered posts to interpret the wetland. Descriptions for each number are available in a separate brochure.
- Moreau Overlook Trail** - The trailhead is located at the northwest corner of the rear parking lot of the day-use area, and is marked with light blue markers. The trail climbs in a northwesterly direction for 0.18 mi. and then takes a left turn to a southwesterly and steeper climb until it levels out somewhat near a seasonal stream. At 0.31 mi. the trail crosses a feeder to the stream and covers some more steep sections until it reaches the Red Oak Ridge Trail and Turkey Path a tenth of a mile further. The three trails merge for about 60 ft., and then the Red Oak Ridge Trail takes a sharp right. The other two continue together for another 240 ft. until the Turkey Path also leaves to the right. Just past this junction the trail bears left along a side-hill and then begins to climb steeply. It levels out for a short distance and then climbs a steep rocky section before it terminates at the overlook and the intersection with the Ridge Run Trail. This trail has an elevation change of more than 700 ft. over a total distance of 0.86 miles.
- Red Oak Ridge** - This trail provides an intermediate-level challenge. The trailhead is located across the road from boat launch on Moreau Lake. From the trailhead, the trail climbs westerly over a small hill and then descends to an old carriage road. The trail follows the carriage road northerly, before entering an area which was recently logged (prior to OPRHP ownership). After traversing the logged area, the trail enters an open oak forest, and climbs along a ridgeline. At the top of this ridgeline, at 0.75 mi., there is a small clearing with a fireplace. From

this point, the trail descends briefly through hemlocks before resuming a northerly course across relatively level terrain to the intersection with the Moreau Overlook Trail and Turkey Path at 0.93 mi. About 60 ft. from this intersection, the trail turns northeasterly and mainly downhill to an intersection with the Nature Trail. Total trail distance is 1.32 mi.

Turkey Path – This is a short trail that begins from the junction with the Red Oak Ridge and the Moreau Overlook Trails. The Red Oak Ridge Trail leaves to the right after 60 ft., and it continues to share the path with the Moreau Overlook Trail for another 240 ft. before also turning right. From this junction the trail follows the contours of the hillside in a northerly direction then descends to intersect with the Western Ridge Trail near a small intermittent stream. Total distance is 0.57 miles.

Mud Pond Trail – Beginning on the main Nature Trail and ending on the Wetland Walk loop, this trail encircles a shallow body of water and wetland, and is indicated by orange markers. Leaving the Nature Trail, it travels through the woods and across an intermittent stream until it reaches an intersection with the eastern end of the Western Ridge Trail at 0.19 mi. From there it first wends northeasterly towards a view of the water, and then back away from the water, curving through the woods until it comes out on a power line at 0.46 mi. It follows the power line for 0.14 mi. before taking a sharp right back into a grove of spruce. The trail winds around mostly within view of the water until it ends at the interpretive Wetland Walk loop, traveling a total distance of 1.11 mi.

Western Ridge Trail – There are two places to access this trail from the boundary of the park on Spier Falls Road. One trailhead is located at a paved pull-off, about 0.25 miles north of the Spier Falls Boat Launch. The other access is located at the height of land on Spier Falls Road with parking on the gravel shoulders, about 0.8 mi. east of the Sherman Island boat launch. From the first trailhead, the trail follows Spier Falls Road south for <200 ft., and then it leaves the road on the eastern side where it is guarded by a steel gate. The trail climbs an old logging road, crosses a small power line and reaches an open landing field after 0.5 miles. Continuing to climb the trail crosses a larger set of power lines and reaches an intersection with the Lake Ann Cutoff at 0.62 miles. The Lake Ann Cutoff continues straight while the Western Ridge Trail makes a left turn and climbs steeply for a short section to an intersection with the Eastern Ridge Trail at 0.75 miles. At this intersection, the trail turns to the left, leaving the old logging road, and leads to the Spring Overlook at 0.84 miles. From here it continues north to northeasterly across the rolling terrain of the top of the ridge. It turns east just before a stream crossing at 1.5 miles and then back north again after it passes the Telegraph tree 0.08 miles later. The trail resumes its course along the top of the ridge, and reaches the intersection with the Cottage Park Trail at 2.18 miles. (The spectacular Spier Falls Overlook is only 220 ft. to the left following the orange markers.) From this point, the trail continues in a northeasterly direction passing a few more overlook points, and then turns southeasterly until it meets another intersection with the Cottage Park Trail at 3.34 miles. In another 80 ft. it leaves the Cottage Park Trail and joins the beginning of the Ridge Run Trail, which leaves to the right 20 ft. later. This is a major 5-way intersection and serves as a point to reorient trail users to their various destinations. From here the trail continues in a northeasterly direction for 0.51 miles until it reaches an intersection with the other end of the Ridge Run Trail. From here it heads north, until it reaches another overlook where there is an old fireplace at 4.23 miles. The trail begins to travel steeply downhill from this point. At 4.35 miles the trail levels out and turns to the east on an old logging road. From this junction, the trail follows rolling terrain for another 0.37 miles until it reaches a clearing. Here a 350-ft. spur trail that leads to the second trailhead on Spier Falls Rd. goes off to the left, and to the right there is another old logging road that leads to private property. The main trail continues straight, leaving the logging roads for a narrower path, and bears southeasterly, approximately paralleling the course of Spier Falls Rd. back into the woods a couple hundred feet. The trail reaches a junction with the Turkey Path at 5.15 miles, and finally ends at a junction with the Mud Pond Trail 0.51 miles further. Total trail distance from one roadside trailhead to the other is about 4.8 mi., while total distance including the connection to the Mud Pond Trail is 5.66 miles.

Western Ridge/Cottage Park Connector – This trail begins at an intersection along the Western Ridge Trail at 0.34 miles from the height of land trail head on Spier Falls Road on the northern most section of the Western Ridge Trail. The trail follows around an old landing and features several switchbacks down a relatively steep section of slope. At the bottom of the steep section, the trail follows along the base of the mountain until it intersects with the Cottage Park Trail. This trail is 0.53 miles in length.

Cottage Park Trail - The trailhead is located about 250 ft. south of the Sherman Island Boat Launch on Spier Falls Road. It wanders among foundations remaining from a historic hotel and a little community of cottages that were built for the people who were involved in the construction of the Spier Falls Dam, known as Cottage Park. After leaving the ruins, the trail proceeds southeasterly, crossing a power line access road at 0.15mi. and two power line corridors at 0.27 and 0.35 miles. From this point the trail climbs gradually along the toe of a steeper slope until it reaches a junction with an old logging road at 0.69 miles. Here it turns left and climbs very steeply

for 0.7 miles gaining in elevation to 1100 ft. and reaches the intersection of the Ridge Run and Western Ridge trails. From here the trail turns southwesterly and continues across the plateau until it reaches the intersection with the Eastern Ridge/ Cottage Park Connector at 2.18 miles. Turning northwesterly, the trail continues for 0.59 miles to meet the Western Ridge Trail again. The Spier Falls Overlook is another 220 ft. further from this intersection. The trail's total length is 2.74 miles.

Ridge Run Trail – This trail begins at the intersection with the Cottage Park and Western Ridge Trails. From here it travels 0.45 miles south along the plateau to an intersection with the Eastern Ridge Trail. Then it turns east and then north for another 0.73 miles until it meets the Moreau Overlook Trail at the overlook. Leaving the overlook it runs north northwesterly across the plateau until it reaches an overlook spur at 2.0 miles. The spur leaves the trail to the left and it is about 120 ft. to the overlook. The main trail continues west for another 0.19 miles to end at the Western Ridge Trail. The total trail length is 2.19 miles.

Eastern Ridge Trail – This trail begins at an intersection with the Ridge Run Trail and travels west 1.18 miles along the top of the Grant Mountain Ridge until it meets an intersection with the Eastern Ridge/Cottage Park Connector. The trail continues along the ridge line and then meets the intersection with the White Birch Trail at 2.74 miles. Continuing westerly, the trail ends at an intersection with the Western Ridge Trail below the Spring Overlook. This trail is 2.96 miles in length.

Cottage Park/Eastern Ridge Connector – This is a very short trail running almost north/south, that provides a shortcut between the Eastern Ridge and Cottage Park trails. It is only 0.2 miles long.

White Birch Trail – This trail begins at an intersection on the southern end of the Eastern Ridge Trail at 0.2 miles. The trail follows a generally northern downhill course to a small stream crossing then starts upwards again towards the Western Ridge Trail. This trail offers an alternative to some of the longer loops in the trail system. This trail is 0.65 miles in length.

The trails listed here are undeveloped and may not be open for use. General descriptions of the routes and estimates of mileage are provided. Note that more site specific work is required to complete these trails.

Lake Ann Trail - From the intersection of the High Road and Eastern Ridge trails, the Lake Ann Trail heads south for 0.35 miles to a point where the trail splits. One path follows the top of a slope while the other follows the bottom of the slope. The Lake Ann Cutoff meets the Lake Ann Trail at the beginning of the lower path. When the two routes meet again the trail continues south for 0.42 miles to Lake Ann and the edge of the park property.

Lake Ann Cutoff - This trail leaves the Western Ridge Trail and heads southeasterly to the lower part of the Lake Ann Trail climbing for 0.48 miles.

Telegraph Tree Trail - The trailhead is located immediately across Spier Falls Road from the Spier Falls Hydro Dam. The trail climbs steeply to the south for 0.34 miles reaching the Telegraph Tree at the intersection with the Western Ridge Trail.

The table below provides a quick assessment of the status of the trails within the southern portion of the park.

Trail Name	In Approved Trails Plan	Developed or Undeveloped	Designated Uses
Lakeside Trail	Yes	Developed	Multiple Use**, No Snowmobiling.
Nature Trail	Yes	Developed	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.
Wetland Walk	Yes	Developed	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling
Moreau Overlook Trail	Yes	Developed	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.
Red Oak Ridge Trail	Yes	Developed	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.
Turkey Path	Yes	Developed	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.
Mud Pond Trail	Yes	Developed	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.
Western Ridge Trail	Yes	Developed	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.
Cottage Park Trail	Yes	Developed	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.
Ridge Run Trail	Yes	Developed	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.
Eastern Ridge Trail	Yes	Developed	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.
White Birch Trail	Yes	Developed	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.
Western Ridge/Cottage Park Connector	Yes	Developed	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.
Eastern Ridge/Cottage Park Connector	Yes	Developed	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.
Lake Ann Trail	Yes	Undeveloped	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.
Lake Ann Cutoff	Yes	Undeveloped	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.
Telegraph Tree Trail	Yes	Undeveloped	Multiple Use, No Snowmobiling.

*** Note: Multiple uses include: hiking, biking/mountain biking, equestrian uses, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing.*

Infrastructure Resources

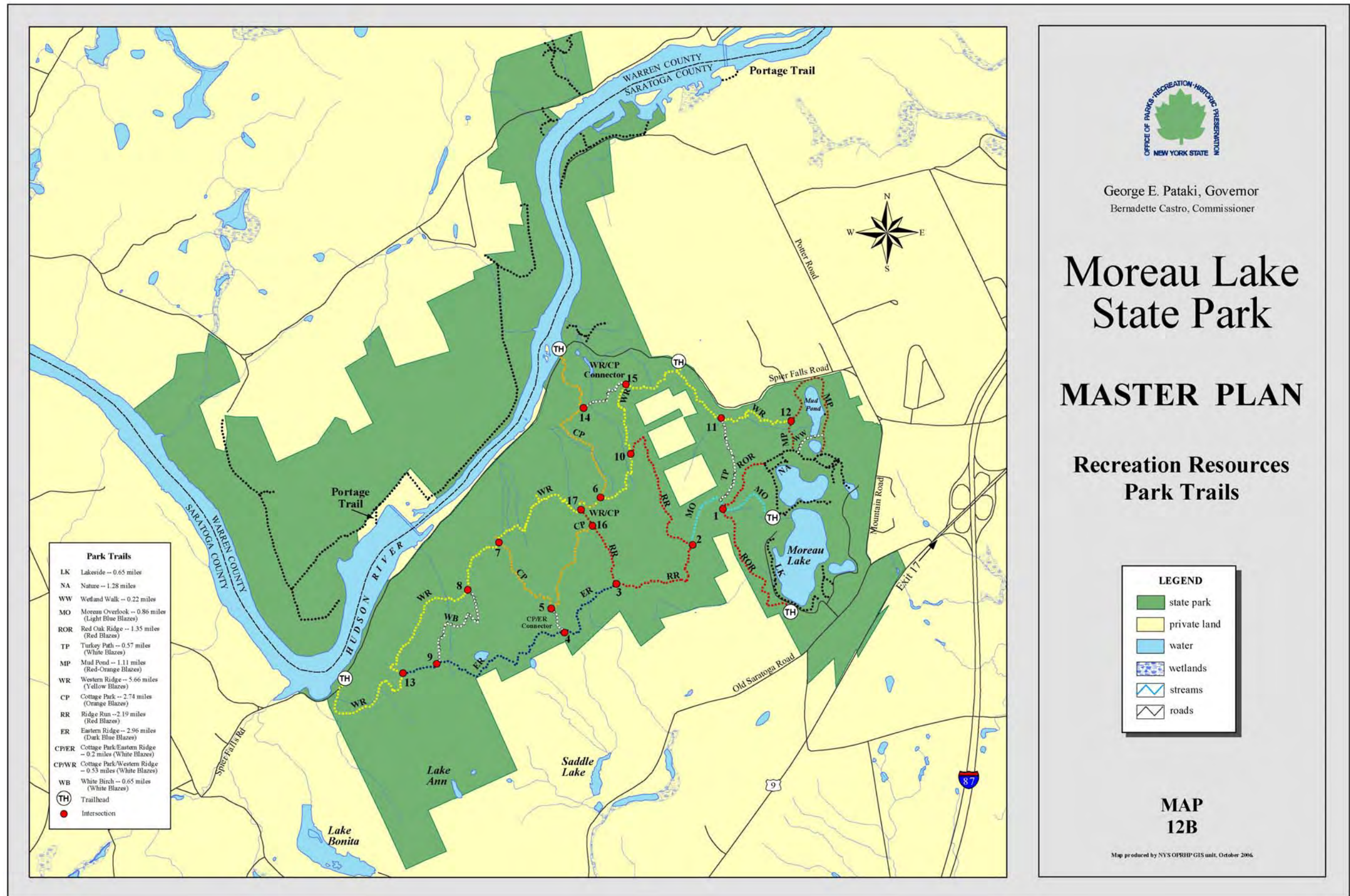
Roads

There are a total of 7 miles of paved road in the park. The main roads are in good condition, while the camping loop roads are in poor condition. There are no walkways, sidewalks or parallel paths along these roads so all roads are shared by vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Bridges

There are three footbridges located on the property. One is located across the causeway of Moreau Lake and allows campers to cross the lake to the day use area. This bridge is in good condition. The other two bridges are located just south of Lakeshore Cottage and along a connector trail leading from camping Loop F to the Nature Trail. These bridges carry pedestrian and equestrian traffic along the trails. These bridges are considered to be in good condition. There are no vehicular bridges in the park.

Map 12B – Recreational Resources Park Trails



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Buildings and Structures

Non-Recreational Building

Total Structures: 28

Total in Use: 24 (4 structures are not in use and are uninhabitable, 2 buildings along Route 9 have been demolished)

Utilities

Potable Water Supplies

There are three separate water systems within the park. They are as follows.

1. Serves the maintenance shop, park office and camping loop A and the recycling center

- Six (6) inch diameter drilled well 125 feet deep.
- Water is disinfected prior to distribution using a sodium hypochlorite solution.
- Two (2) pressure storage tanks.
 - Two (2), 119 gallon hydro pneumatic tanks.
- Six (6) standpipes served.

The well and tanks are located in a small pit behind the park's storage garage. This well serves the park office year-round. A portable toilet is provided for public use during winter months.

2. This system serves both the day use area and the camping area with the exception of Loop A. There are two wells in the main system. The flow of the main system is monitored by a master flow meter located in a small pit near the pump house.

Well # 1- Located in pump house

- Six (6) inch diameter drilled well, 225 feet deep.
- 5 hp submersible pump (replaced 8/05).
- Reported well yield of 25+ gallons per minute.
- Chlorinated.

Well # 2 – Located along Lakeside Trail, south of Cottage

- Six (6) inch diameter drilled well, 130 feet deep.
- 5 hp submersible pump (replaced 8/05).
- Reported yield of 60 gallons per minute.

Storage

Distribution storage for the main system is provided by a 50,000 gallon steel-encased storage tank/water tower which is located on top of the hill behind the day use area to the north of the lake. The tank has a recirculation pump and a chlorinator which maintains a constant free chlorine residual in the tank. The system is gravity fed by this tank. The chlorinator is only used in the summer and is removed each year prior to the onset of winter.

Treatments

Water is disinfected using a sodium hypochlorite solution pumped by a pulse chlorinator fed from a 45 gallon crock. The solution is injected into water prior to leaving the pump house. Well pumps are only activated during off hours to insure sufficient chlorine contact time.

Distribution

A 3 inch diameter PVC pipe distributes water to the beach area, concessions stand and comfort station prior to storage and then a combination of 3-inch diameter PVC pipe down to a 2-inch diameter galvanized pipe for distribution to 27 standpipes and 10 buildings.

3. This water system serves the rental cabin, Lake Shore Cottage.

- The source is a driven point 24 feet deep.
- Pumped via a 3/4 HP jet pump with a 20 gallon bladder tank set at 20-40 psi.
- Located in a small pit of concrete block construction covered by a small shed structure.
- Serves only the rental cabin

- Used only for the summer. Pump and pressure tank removed before the onset of winter.
- Chlorinated.

Septic Systems

Septic tanks and leach fields handle sewage generated from the campground, park office, rental cottage, ranger's cabin, bathhouse, maintenance buildings, shower building, dumping station, Nature Center and comfort station.

Tanks	Capacity
Camping Loop A	1000 gallons
Camping Loop B	1000 gallons
Camping Loop C	1000 gallons
Camping Loop D	1000 gallons
Camping Loop E	1000 gallons
Camping Loop F	1000 gallons
Camping Loop G	1000 gallons
Walk-in Camping	1000 gallons
Park Office	1000 gallons
Rental Cabin	1000 gallons
Ranger's Cabin	1000 gallons
Bathhouse	6000 gallons (2 - 3000 gallon tanks)
Maintenance	1000 gallons
Shower Building	6000 gallons (estimate)
Dump Station	1500 gallons (estimate)
Nature Center	500 gallons
Comfort Station	3000 gallons

Telephone

The telephone system is a Centrex System provided by Verizon. There are also two public pay phones located in the park, one by the recycling center and the other by the concession area.

Electric

The park has overhead primary electrical distribution and some underground secondary distribution. The overhead system is owned and maintained by National Grid; the underground secondary lines were installed and are owned by the park. National Grid provides electricity to the primary lines. There are a total of six meters on the park at: Mountain Road, the Park Office, Lake Shore Cottage, the Maintenance Building, the Campsite Pump House, and the Beach Pump House.

Heating System

The park office and maintenance garage are heated by oil-fired, hot water systems. Each of these buildings is supplied by a 500-gallon above ground fuel oil storage tank with leak detection and overflow protection.

Petroleum Storage Tanks

The park maintenance area has two above ground fuel storage tanks in addition to the heating fuel oil tank. These tanks consist of a 1000-gallon tank for gasoline storage and dispensing and a 500-gallon tank for diesel fuel storage and dispensing. Both are equipped with leak and overfill detection sensors and automatic fire-suppression equipment. The Bathhouse at the day use area has an underground propane tank that is used for heating water.

Subsurface Resources

There are no mineral mines, gas or oil wells within the park boundaries. There are, however, gravel pit mines and iron pit mines adjacent to the park.

Scenic Resources

From the Western Ridge trail there are a number of scenic overlooks that provide expansive views of the Hudson River, the foothills of the Adirondacks and the forested park land on the Hudson River's north shore. From the eastern side of the Palmertown Range there are mountain top views of Moreau Lake, the Green Mountains in Vermont and the Hudson Valley. The Hudson River provides views of the quick rising Palmertown and Luzerne Mountains. These views are mostly experienced from a boat or the north shore of the river. There may be more scenic view opportunities from within the Park lands north of the Hudson River; however, this area has not been thoroughly inventoried. (See Map 12 - Recreation Resources)

Park Finance, Attendance, Operation and Maintenance

The Park Manager deals directly with security and maintenance personnel. The park is staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week during the camping season and from dawn-dusk during the winter season. Camping season runs from mid-May through mid-October. The beach is open for swimming from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Park staff consists of: a Park Manager II, a Park Supervisor I, two Park Worker IIIs, and a Park Worker I. During the summer operating season there are as many as 51 temporary and seasonal employees in titles including: Lifeguard, Park Ranger, Park Worker (T&S) and Park Aides I-V.

Finance, Revenue and Attendance

Revenue from Moreau Lake State Park has increased steadily since 1995. This is due to the introduction of group camping, the cottage rental, walk-in tent camping, picnic tent rentals and paddle boat rentals. Park attendance is recorded through camping and day use admittance through the contact station.

Fiscal Year	Attendance	Revenue	Operation Expenses*
99-00	192,000	\$298,241.48	\$253,500
00-01	169,000	\$289,248.04	\$258,350
01-02	278,559	\$310,409.48	\$303,100
02-03	286,725	\$330,673.18	\$303,100
03-04	277,251	\$340,567.99	\$310,610
04-05	276,163	\$337,086.45	\$313,610
Year to date 05-06	236,075	\$325,180.89	\$331,254

* Note: Operations figures include temporary and seasonal personnel but not permanent personnel or capital funding.

Operation and Maintenance

Park Regulations

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the Day Use Area is open from 8:00 a.m. to sunset. No one is allowed into the park prior to or after these hours, including fishermen.

The contact station is staffed for fee collection from 8:00 a.m. daily. A park employee is typically stationed at the booth 24 hours a day, while camping is permitted, to provide a measure of security.

The beach is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. At the close of public schools in June, the beach hours are extended on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

When the park fills to capacity, it is closed to the public including those persons who are joining a party already in the park. As the park empties, others are allowed to enter. Walk-ins sign a registration sheet and drivers of state-owned or other official vehicles must sign the "Official Vehicle Registry". All campsite visitors must leave the park by 10:00 p.m. when "quiet hours" begin.

From mid-October until mid-May the park hours are 7:00 a.m. to sunset. In the winter, only the main entrance gate is open. This allows vehicles to enter and park above the second set of gates.

Equestrians who wish to bring their horse onto park property must show park management documentation regarding Coggins and other necessary vaccinations.

Park Fees

Camping is \$13.00 a night plus a \$2.75 service charge for non-reservations. There is a \$3.00 weekend and night before a holiday amenity fee. Reservations are made through ReserveAmerica at 1-800-456-CAMP. Reservations are accepted 2 days to 11 months in advance for a fee of \$9.00.

A Day Use fees are \$7.00 per vehicle when the beach is open for the season and \$6.00 per vehicle weekends and holidays only the first full weekend in May through Columbus Day. Day use fees are collected from 8:00 a.m. to closing. Empire Passports are season passes that allow free admission for one vehicle to most New York State Parks. These passes are available at the park office. Senior citizens (at least 62 years of age) that are residents of New York

State may use their NY driver's license or non-driver identification to gain free entrance to the Day Use Area Monday through Friday only and excluding holidays.

Camping

Camping season is from the second weekend in May through Columbus Day. Campers are allowed six people per site and two vehicles per site. Additional vehicles must park in a designated area, and pay an extra car fee of \$5.00 when the beach is closed and \$6.00 when the beach is open. Two tents are allowed per site and must be set up on the sand pad area of the site.

The shower building is open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and closed for cleaning from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The dump station is available to all campers. There is no fee for park campers. Campers from outside the park may use the dump station but must pay the day use fee of \$6.00.

Firewood for campers can be purchased at the park office.

Pets are allowed into the camping area with proof of rabies vaccination. All pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and must be kept under proper supervision.

Walk-in/Group Camping

The walk in/group camping area is available for use by organizations, park volunteer groups and the general public. The entire area is rented for \$95.00 per night.

Cottage Rental

Reservations for the Lakeshore Cottage can be made though www.reserveamerica.com or 1-800-456-CAMP. Rental rates change throughout the season and are on a weekly basis.

Primitive Water-Accessed Campsites

Four water-accessed campsites are located along the north shore of the Hudson River. These sites are available to river travelers on a first-come/first-served basis. There is no fee associated with these sites.

Fire rings are provided at each site. There is a boat pull-up area and a cleared tent pad at each site. Although these sites are located within the FERC regulated boundary of the power company's power generating stations, the Park is responsible for maintaining and operating these sites.

Park staff conduct periodic inspections of the sites to ensure that the tent areas are cleared of debris, hazardous trees are removed and that fire rings are in good condition.

If campers choose to park at one of the boat launch sites and use a water-accessed campsite they must obtain an overnight parking permit from the park office. Maximum length of stay is two nights. Campers may also purchase firewood at the park office.

Wildlife

Raccoons prowl the shoreline of Moreau Lake and sometimes raid campers' garbage in search of food. Employees and park patrons are encouraged to stay away from animals and report any cases of unusual animal behavior.

Fire Prevention and Protection

Each campsite is equipped with a fireplace. Unless special permission is given by the Park Manager these fireplaces are the only places fires should be made. The camping area is patrolled regularly and campers are warned if their fires appear unsafe. If a camper has left a site and an unattended fire, an Indian Tank, stored in the back of the Park Ranger's vehicle is used to extinguish the fire.

There are many buildings and structures within the park. Simple rules to prevent structural fires are listed in the park's "Information and Emergency Procedures" manual. In the event of a structure fire the building's evacuation plan is implemented and the local fire department is notified. Park buildings are inspected annually for compliance with the New York State Fire Code.

In the event of a wildfire (grass, brush or forest), the area and any structures are evacuated according to the evacuation plan and the local fire department is notified. The local DEC Forest Fire Ranger is notified. Park and/or other OPRHP personnel assist the fire department or DEC Ranger by providing manpower and/or equipment when requested.

Park Safety and Security

To ensure the safety and security of park employees and patrons, the park is staffed 24 hours a day while the camping areas are open. All areas of the park are routinely patrolled including the road circling the park and the structures located on Route 9. The nature trails, beach, picnic area and camping loops are also patrolled. Buildings are checked for signs of break-ins or vandalism and reported accordingly. The Park Patrols also issue and check for alcohol permits, respond to patron complaints and handle most emergency situations and request assistance from either the Park Manager, maintenance personnel or the Park Police as necessary.

The contact station is staffed 24 hours a day from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Day shifts are required to handle fee collection, check for valid camping and day use permits and make sure official and walk-in visitors sign-in. After midnight, the booth is staffed to maintain a measure of security and check camping permits. No one is allowed to enter the park's day use area after sunset and all campsite visitors are reminded to leave the park by 10:00 p.m.

All accidents, crimes and emergency situations are reported to the NYS Park Police and the appropriate local authorities. In the event of persons falling through the lake ice, appropriately trained park personnel respond first and notify the 911 dispatcher that an ice rescue is needed. The Village of South Glens Falls has an ice rescue team and will respond if available. In the event of gasoline, fuel oil or hazardous material spills, the NYS Park Police are listed as first responders and are notified immediately. DEC also requires that they be notified within two (2) hours of discovery of the spill. They will respond with containment

and clean up crews if available. If DEC crews are not available, the Office of General Services may assist the park if a "Declaration of Emergency" is issued.

Evacuation Plan

Command and control of the evacuation of buildings and structures is given by the NYS Park Police or Fire Department depending on the nature of the emergency.

In the event that the entire park needs to be evacuated, Park personnel with portable radios and portable public address systems travel the park in park vehicles and announce that an emergency exists in the park and all patrons are advised to leave the park. Areas where the highest concentrations of park patrons exist will be notified first. These areas include the day use, beach, and picnic areas, camping loops, walk-in campsites, nature trail and maintenance area. All patrons will be directed to the front entrance of the park. During peak season it may be necessary to also use an alternate exit to evacuate the camping areas. This alternate exit is located near site 110. Campers would be directed to this exit while day users would be directed to use the main park entrance. The announcement will be made along all town roads that surround the outside of the park, including the Spier Falls and Sherman Island boat launches.

Park Equipment and Vehicles

The park maintains a small fleet of vehicles. Routine maintenance is handled by park staff. If major repairs are required, then a work order is placed with the Regional Maintenance at the Gideon Garage in Saratoga Spa State Park. Vehicles include:

- 1998 4x4 Dump truck with a snowplow.
- 2001 4x4 full size pickup truck with a snowplow.
- 2 compact pickup trucks 2000 and 2001 models with 2-wheel drive.
- 1997 pickup truck, full size, with 2-wheel drive.
- 1993 pickup truck, full size, with 4-wheel drive.
- 1985 rack body dump truck.
- 1998 motorboat, 12-foot long, with a 25 horsepower engine.
- Two small trailers.
- 1985 2-wheel drive tractor/loader with attachments.

The park has grounds equipment consisting of:

- 4 Chainsaws
- 2 walk behind mowers
- 1 garden type riding mower, wheel drive
- 1 All terrain vehicle 4x4 with snowplow.
- 1 Gator 6x4 multi-use vehicle.
- 1 snow blower, walk-behind type
- 3 emergency generators
- 1 Snowmobile

Office equipment such as computers, a photocopier, fax machine, cash register and portable radios is used as part of the park's daily administration.

Staff Parking

There is a small parking lot at the park office. This is used for authorized park vehicles only, these include: the Park Manager's vehicle, the personal vehicles of evening office staff, official visitors and other park vehicles. Parking for persons with disabilities is also available in this lot. Day shift, park office and maintenance staff, and Park Rangers must park their personal vehicles at the Maintenance Area. Lifeguards have designated parking at the beach.

Solid Waste and Refuse Disposal

The Saratoga-Capital District State Park Region has instituted a "Carry-in/Carry-out" policy for all the parks and sites under their jurisdiction. In Moreau Lake State Park the day use area is strictly "Carry-in/Carry-out". The facilities along Spier Falls Road (the two boat launches) and the primitive water access campsites on the north shore of the Hudson River are also designated "Carry-in/Carry-out" facilities. In the camping area around Moreau Lake, campers use a centrally located dumpster to dispose of refuse and participate in a recycling program. Park generated waste is also emptied into the dumpster. The Park contracts with a waste hauler to empty the dumpster.

III. Vision and Goals

In 1998, OPRHP acquired over 3,200 acres of land that more than tripled the size of Moreau Lake State Park. Now, Moreau Lake State Park is the largest park in the Saratoga-Capital District Region. To help guide development, management and operation of the now 4,100+ acre park, a vision statement and primary goals have been developed. The "Vision Statement" was developed using the resource information from the "Environmental Setting" chapter, public scoping meetings, and advisory committee suggestions. The vision statement and subsequent goals are designed to be consistent with OPRHP's Mission Statement, the statewide recreation policies and program goals outlined in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and other federal, state and local programs and plans.

Mission Statement and Guiding Principles of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Mission Statement

The mission of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is to provide safe and enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities for all New York State residents and visitors and to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural, historic and cultural resources.

Guiding Principles

- A Commitment to Leadership.** We recognize the preeminence of the New York State Park and Historic Site System. We are committed to excellence, innovation, professionalism and to forging partnerships. We are committed to seeking the means by which operational and maintenance needs are met as recreational and cultural opportunities are enhanced for our patrons. To meet that challenge, we are committed to pursuing compatible revenue initiatives as we continue our commitment to protect resources.
- A Commitment to People.** We are committed to serving and protecting the public to the best of our ability, with courtesy and respect. We are committed to our employees and volunteers, encouraging teamwork, self-improvement and mutual support.
- A Commitment to Service.** We are committed to equal access and outreach to all segments of our society, recognizing individual needs and interests. We are committed to safety, security, creativity and accountability in providing our programs and services.
- A Commitment to Preservation.** State Parks and Historic Sites are unique and irreplaceable public assets. We are committed to wise acquisition, planning and where compatible, development of recreational facilities; timely and professional care and maintenance; and responsibility to future generations in whose trust we manage resources. We are committed to providing encouragement to all agencies and individuals to identify, evaluate and protect recreational, natural, historic and cultural resources

Vision Statement

Moreau Lake State Park will be a place for the residents and non-residents of New York State to visit and enjoy and appreciate the natural, cultural and physical resources and the recreational opportunities that the park offers.

Overall Goal for the Park

To achieve a balance between the recreational use, protection and interpretation of the biological, physical and cultural resources of the park.

Natural Resource Goals

Overall Goal: To identify, protect and interpret the natural resources within and associated with the park.

- Design and locate recreational facilities to assure that they do not exceed the parkland's capacity to withstand use.
- Protect, manage and maintain areas important as habitat for rare, threatened, endangered or protected plant and animal species and community types.
- Identify areas with environmental sensitivity, such as wetlands, and direct intensive development away from such areas.
- Maintain, restore and/or enhance the natural environment, where appropriate, to improve the quality of natural resources and support biodiversity of plant and animal species.
- Develop interpretive programs that focus on the plants, animals and natural communities of the park.
- Encourage the propagation of species of plant and animals considered native and indigenous to the area.
- Control the impacts of invasive species on the biodiversity of plants and animals.
- Protect and maintain the quality of water resources both on and associated with the park.

Recreation Goals

Overall Goal: Provide day use and overnight facilities that are compatible with the park's natural and cultural resources.

- Provide year-round facilities and programs for the public.
- Implement programs and facilities that are consistent with regional and local needs and demands as identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, and other federal, state, and local plans and programs.

- Develop programs to interpret the natural, cultural and physical resources and educate the public of their importance.
- Design facilities to be compatible with the character of the park and its resources.

Cultural Resource Goals

Overall Goal: Identify, protect, preserve and interpret sites and areas significant to the history, archaeology and culture of the local community, region, state and nation.

- Identify and protect archaeologically sensitive areas.
- Minimize or avoid disturbances within archaeologically sensitive areas.
- Preserve and interpret cultural resources.
- Develop programs and activities which interpret the history and culture of the area and the park.

Scenic Resource Goals

Overall Goal: Protect the scenic quality of the park and its viewshed.

- Design and locate all activities, structures and infrastructure to minimize impacts and to fit into the park's setting.
- Provide and maintain vistas to the Hudson River, Moreau Lake, and other scenic features, using topography or existing clearings whenever possible.

Access Goals

Overall Goal: Provide appropriate access to the park and its recreational, cultural and natural resources.

- Provide and maintain access to the Park and associated recreation facilities.
- Provide access to natural/passive recreation areas.
- Provide access to trail systems.
- Improve access to developed areas.
- Provide and develop access to water resources.
- Provide access to park resources for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).

Education and Interpretation Goals

Overall Goal: Provide opportunities for education and interpretation of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park.

- Design interpretive programs that focus on the park's natural, cultural and recreation resources.

- Provide interpretive programs designed for the general public and for organized groups.
- Design programs that are compatible with the protection of park resources.
- Provide a year-round interpretive program.
- Develop an outreach program designed for local schools and other organizations.
- Develop partnerships with other providers that can offer interpretive programs designed for the park visitors and groups.

Operation and Maintenance Goals

Overall Goal: Operate and maintain the park in a safe and clean manner that protects the natural and cultural resources of the park.

- Develop a set of design, maintenance and operation guidelines
- Develop partnerships for maintenance and operation of the park facilities.
- Identify specific approaches to address resource protection within the operation and maintenance programs.
- Enhance revenue generation opportunities.

Communication and Partnership Goals

Overall Goal: Develop partnerships with organizations, federal, state and local agencies, not-for-profit organizations and the private sector.

- Coordinate with Niagara Mohawk and Erie Boulevard Power/Reliant Energy (and their successors) in the management of the lands owned by these firms and managed by OPRHP under management agreements.
- Coordinate with local and state agencies in the management of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park.
- Coordinate and cooperate with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in the management of lands under their jurisdiction as covered by the Memorandum of Understanding between OPRHP and DEC.
- Ensure that the development of facilities and programs consider the plans and policies of other state and federal agencies.
- Provide opportunities for input regarding park management and development from the public.

Inventory, Monitoring and Research Goals

Overall Goal: Encourage scientific research into the natural and cultural resources of the park.

- Provide a coordinated approach to inventory, monitoring and research that facilitates data exchange.
- Conduct and encourage research by individuals, interest groups and institutions.
- Develop and implement a monitoring program that measures changes within the park.
- Promote research that complements the other goals for the park.
- Assure that all monitoring and research programs are compatible with the protection of park resources.

IV. Analysis and Alternatives

This Master Plan will be the first comprehensive planning document for Moreau Lake State Park. The only other document that refers to Moreau Lake was completed in 1969 (Vollmer, 1969). The plan entitled "Outdoor Recreation for the Capital District, New York" focused primarily on acquisition of property to expand the park and facilities.

The current planning process began in 1998, shortly after the acquisition of more than 3,200 acres from Niagara Mohawk (National Grid) and the Open Space Institute. This acquisition more than tripled the size of the park. Management, development and operation of the newly expanded park are the major impetus of this master plan. The development process of this master plan has followed four basic steps: resource inventory, assessment of needs, analysis of resources and the development of alternatives. This chapter completes the last two steps of this planning process, analysis of resources and the development of alternatives.

Park Classification

There are two primary sources of reference for the classification of park land under OPRHP jurisdiction: The State Parkland Classification System (OPRHP, 1980) and Article 20 of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law - New York State Park Preserve System.

During the 1970's, OPRHP undertook studies and gathered data on a variety of environmental and management factors for each park. This information was the basis for the development of a classification system for land in the State Park System (OPRHP, 1980). The concept of this system was to identify the capability of parkland to support various park functions and thus provide guidance for the protection of environmental resources, use and management practices. The classification system has undergone revisions over the years. The system is explained in a 1980 technical report, updated in the 1994 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and most recently updated in the 2003 SCORP. Prior to the development of the classification system Moreau Lake State Park was considered a recreation park. Under the classification systems, Moreau Lake State Park has been classified as a Scenic-Preserve Park (1980), and a Recreation Park (1994). The master planning process presents the opportunity to reevaluate a park's current classification and modify it if necessary, based on the most recent natural, cultural and recreational resource inventories.

The current Park Classification System provides five (5) major classification categories. These are: Park and Land Resources, Water Access, Historic Resources, Linear Systems, and Underwater Sites and Environmental Education (OPRHP, 2002). Parks and Land Resources include land areas that provide passive and/or active recreation. Water Access facilities focus on boating activity and its related uses. Historic Resources are sites, parks, etc., which have historical significance. These areas are preserved and/or interpreted for these values. Linear systems are recreation ways, parkways, and trails—movement corridors which link recreation areas either to population centers or to other recreation areas (OPRHP, 1980). Underwater sites are historic or park resources that exist under water. Environmental Education sites or areas are specific to lands administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Moreau Lake State Park falls within the "Parks and Land Resources" category.

Under the “Parks and Land Resources” category there are seven subcategories. Three of these categories are reserved for lands within the Adirondack and Catskill Regions that are administered by DEC. The four that pertain to OPRHP lands include: Metro Park, Recreation Park, Scenic Park, and Park Preserve.

Moreau Lake State Park, as it currently exists, falls within the Scenic Park classification according to the Classification System outlined in the 2003 SCORP. SCORP defines a Scenic Park as having a natural setting, with limited development. Scenic attractions exist within urban, suburban or rural areas. A Scenic Park contains a mix of natural and developed areas with significant scenic resources. Activities can include, but are not limited to, camping, swimming in natural waterbodies, picnicking, hiking, biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and boating. However, the major attraction to a Scenic Park is its scenic character and natural resources rather than the activities offered.

Other classifications that could be considered for Moreau Lake State Park are the Recreation Park and the Park Preserve. The Recreation Park is described as being a natural area in suburban or rural areas. It contains a mix of natural and developed areas in natural surroundings. Facilities can include but are not limited to swimming pools, beaches and bath houses, boating and campgrounds with various levels of service, golf courses, picnic areas, play fields and game courts. Natural environments surround and enhance these areas; however, the developed areas and the use of these areas are substantial.

In comparison, a Park Preserve focuses more on the natural attributes of a park and its environmental research and educational opportunities, but may also provide for limited recreational use based upon the carrying capacities of the resource base and other program considerations. These may include large tracts of barely disturbed woodland or habitat important for wildlife and areas that present development and land use constraints such as unusually steep topography. Because of the sensitivity of the ecosystem, human use must be limited. Recreation activities are generally passive in nature. Activities may include, but are not limited to, nature interpretation, hiking, canoeing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, hunting and fishing. Where such use is compatible with the environment, bicycle riding, horseback riding, primitive camping, picnicking and similar forms of activities may be permitted. Highly developed facilities are kept at a minimum. Alteration of the natural setting is greatly discouraged and great care is taken to minimize visual intrusion.

Article 20 of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law outlines the process for designation of entire parks as part of a statewide park preserve system. Portions of parks, called Park Preservation Areas, can also be included as part of the park preserve system. Article 20 calls for scientific studies to determine what areas should be designated as part of the system. The law also provides guidance for protection and interpretation within Park Preserves and Park Preservation Areas.

Moreau Lake State Park as a whole is primarily wooded. Most recreation activities within the park are concentrated and center on the 128+ acre Moreau Lake. The remainder of the park provides multiple use trail opportunities, access to the Hudson River, and a potential to provide overnight facilities. Some areas contain steep slopes which would preclude most recreational activities and development of support facilities. Soil types within the park are well to excessively drained with the exception of those associated with water bodies and wetlands. There is one State regulated wetland associated with the north pond of Moreau Lake and many smaller wetlands within the park. There is also a bog lake community surrounding Lake

Ann. There are 18 distinct ecological community types. The hemlock-northern hardwood forest community is significant because of its size, contiguous nature and is an excellent representation of the community type. The calcareous talus slope woodland community is considered significant because of a limited number of occurrences in New York State. The ridge lines of the Palmertown and Luzerne Mountain Ranges provide many spectacular views of the southern Adirondacks, the Hudson River and the Lake Champlain and Hudson River Valleys.

As a single entity, it is recommended that Moreau Lake State Park be classified as a Scenic Park. Areas within the park could be considered for inclusion into the Park Preserve System as Park Preservation Areas as defined by Article 20 of the Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law (Park Preserve Law).

Physical Resource Analysis

Geology and Topography

The underlying geological formations dictate the topography of the area. The majority of the rock beneath the park has not been documented because of the extensive amount of glacial and alluvial deposits left during the Quaternary of the Cenozoic Period.

Tectonic lifts and shifts have, however, created a fault line that parallels the Palmertown Mountain Range. The tectonic shifting and uplifting created folds and fractures in the bedrock which ultimately created the steep, cliff-like slopes of the Palmertown and Luzerne Mountains. These areas of steep slope should be avoided for most development features and facilities. Glaciation is the most recent, major geomorphologic influence of the area. Stabilization of the drainage patterns of Lake Iroquois, Lake Albany and the Proto-Mohawk River created a variety of topographic conditions from steep slopes through rolling plains and gentle slopes.

The gentler, rolling topography of the park generally supports the day use and campground areas of the park. This area is concentrated around Moreau Lake. The steeper terrain of the Palmertown Range and the Luzerne Mountains supports primarily trail activities with limited support facilities located in the level areas along roadways and the Hudson River.

Soils

Review of the Soil Survey maps and manuscripts for Saratoga and Warren Counties showed that 43 soil map units exist within the boundaries of Moreau Lake State Park. The soils in the Park range from rock outcrops to deep gravels and sands to mucks. The USDA produces soil interpretation tables for use by engineers, managers and farmers that provide general indications of the suitability of soils for cultivation and or development. The interpretation tables that apply to park development and recreation management include Building Site Development, Sanitary Facility Development, and Recreational Uses. These tables are presented in Appendix D.

Soils are rated in their natural state and are given a limitation rating of slight, moderate, or severe. Suitability ratings are given in terms of good, fair, and poor. It should be noted that even though a soil may have limitations, soil feature modifications or design plans can be

created that compensate for most degrees of limitations. Descriptions of the soil ratings used are listed below

Limitation Ratings

1. Slight - the rating given soils that have properties favorable for the use. The degree of limitation is minor and can be overcome easily. Good performance and low maintenance can be expected.
2. Moderate - the rating given soils that have properties moderately favorable for the use. This degree of limitation can be overcome or modified by special planning, design, or maintenance. During some part of the year, the expected performance is less desirable than for soils rated slight.
3. Severe - the rating given soils that have one or more properties unfavorable for the rated use, such as steep slopes, bedrock near the surface, flooding, high shrink-swell potential, a seasonal high water table or low strength. This degree of limitation generally requires major soil reclamation, special design, or intensive maintenance, which in most situations is difficult and costly.

Suitability Ratings

1. Good - the soil has properties favorable for the use. Good performance and low maintenance can be expected.
2. Fair - the soil is moderately favorable for the use. One or more soil properties make these soils less desirable than those rated good.
3. Poor - the soil has one or more properties unfavorable for the use. Overcoming the unfavorable property requires special design, extra maintenance or costly alteration.

The limitation and suitability ratings for park soils cover the full range from slight to severe. Soils with a "poor" or "severe" rating should be avoided. These soils are located on steep, rocky slopes or low areas that are wet or flooded such as bog areas or wetlands. Locating facilities or uses in areas where soils are rated "fair" or "moderate" may require special planning, engineering or soil stabilization measures depending upon the type and level of development.

Water

Water resources include both surface and ground water. The quality of these water sources is important to providing recreation opportunities and support facilities. The two main waterbodies within the park are Moreau Lake and the Hudson River.

The park is located in the Hudson-Hoosic watershed. Runoff flows either towards the Hudson River or Moreau Lake. The eastern slopes of the Palmertown Mountains drain into Moreau Lake, while the north and western slopes drain into the Hudson River. The Luzerne Mountains on the north side of the park also drain into the Hudson River.

Moreau Lake

Moreau Lake, with a surface area of 128 acres, is the focus of swimming, boating and fishing activities. Generally the lake has a best use rating of an "A" class lake. An "A" class rating means that the water body is suitable for primary (swimming) and secondary (boating and fishing) contact recreation and for use as a water supply. Currently, Moreau Lake is not used for a water supply by the park or its surrounding communities.

The park does not allow motorized boats (including electric trolling motors) on the lake. Using the SCORP (2003) recommendation of 1 acre/vessel for row boating, the instant capacity of Moreau Lake for boating is 128 boats. The park currently rents paddle boats and canoes. Day users and campers often launch their own craft from the launch at the south end of the lake. Boats may be crowded on the lake during peak park use days; however, the instant capacity is never reached.

Beach swimming is another activity that takes place on Moreau Lake. The one beach is accessed from the day use area on the northwest side of the lake. NYS Department of Health (DOH) standards for beach swimming are 25 sq. ft. per person at depths less than 4 ft. deep and 75 sq. ft. per person at depths greater than 4 ft. The roped swimming area in Moreau Lake is 264 ft. long by 114 ft. wide. Using the DOH standards, the beach has a facility capacity of approximately 1,000 people. Throughout the 35 years that the park has operated, the beach has not been closed to swimming as a result of water quality issues. Visual observations of the swimming area have reported that the capacity of the beach is adequate for current levels of use and that the instant capacity is never reached.

Hudson River

There are seven miles of Hudson River shoreline within the boundaries of the park. The water quality of this area is generally rated "good". Below Hudson Falls and Fort Edward there is a concern of PCB contamination. In fact, there is a NYS Department of Health (DOH) fish consumption advisory that begins below the Sherman Island Dam and extends to the Feeder Dam in South Glens Falls due to PCB concentrations in carp. In the stretch of river within the park, the primary concern is mercury contamination. There is a fish consumption advisory for smallmouth bass over 14 inches that begins at the Corinth Dam and extends to the bridge at Route 9 in South Glens Falls. There is no fish consumption advisory due to PCB's in either the Spier Falls or the Sherman Island impoundments.

A DEC hazardous waste remediation site exists adjacent to park lands on property owned by National Grid (site #55012). A land site remediation has been completed and the development of a river bottom remediation plan is underway. OPRHP will continue to consult with DEC regarding cleanup and use of this area.

The best use classification of this stretch of river is "B" for primary and secondary contact recreation. The area currently supports boating and fishing activity and before park management of the surrounding uplands, swimming took place in this area. The Town of Queensbury currently uses the Hudson River as a drinking water supply. The intake for their water treatment plant is just downstream from the park boundary. Saratoga County is exploring the development of a county-wide water system. One alternative being discussed is to develop a water treatment plant on the south shore of the Hudson River. The development of intake and pumping structures will have an impact on park land.

Motor boats, rowboats, canoes and kayaks are all permitted on this stretch of river, which is comprised of two impoundments, the Spier Falls Impoundment and the Sherman Island Impoundment. There is one publicly accessible boat launch on each impoundment. The Spier Falls Impoundment has 638 acres of surface area. Using the SCORP (2003) recommendation of 1 acre/vessel for rowboats, canoes and kayaks, the Spier Falls Impoundment has an instant capacity of 638 vessels. The instant capacity for motor and powerboats is 80-106 boats. This is calculated using 6-8 acres/vessel (SCORP, 2003). The public boat launch has parking for a maximum of 6 car/trailers. This facility limits and controls the amount of use this impoundment receives from boating activity.

Similarly, the Sherman Island Impoundment has 305 acres of surface area. The impoundment has an instant capacity for rowboats, canoes and kayaks of 305 vessels. The instant capacity for motor and powerboats is 38-50 vessels. The public launch offers parking for a maximum of 15 car/trailers. This launch parking area is also used by hikers, shore fishermen and picnickers. Boating use is rarely at capacity.

Potential park uses for the river could include drinking/potable water (with treatment), providing swimming opportunities, and improving fishing access and boating access.

Lake Ann

Lake Ann is located in the southwest corner of the park, north of the Mount McGregor Correctional Facility. It is considered a bog lake and is part of a larger wetland complex. The lake is acidic and most likely does not support any fish populations. The lake is important ecologically and adds to the biodiversity of the park. It is not used for most water related recreational activities due to its size and lack of sportfish. Also, the lake is not publically accessible from park trails.

Groundwater

There are no sole-source or primary aquifers associated with Moreau Lake State Park. The park uses wells to provide potable water to the park office, maintenance area, the Lakeshore Cottage, day use and campground areas. There are four wells used by the park, two are of an unknown depth the others are 225 feet deep and 130 feet deep. These wells currently service the park's existing use. If the park's capacity were increased through further development, within the intensive recreation areas of the park or through the addition of new facilities, the water supply system will need to be expanded. This may require the installation of new wells or tapping into municipal water supplies, where available.

Biological Resource Analysis

The park has been inventoried by the Natural Heritage Program to identify ecological communities. This inventory produced a map of the ecological communities within the park and an accompanying report that identified both rare and endangered species of flora and fauna as well as significant ecological communities.

Ecological Communities

As explained in the Environmental Setting Chapter, the park contains 18 distinct natural communities. The inventory conducted by the Natural Heritage Program identified two communities to be significant. The hemlock-northern hardwood forest community was

determined to be significant because of its expanse through the area. It exists in two large blocks within the park boundaries and extends northward into the Luzerne Mountains. The segment of the community identified within the park is an excellent example of the community type making it significant even though the community is not ranked as rare statewide or globally. The calcareous talus slope woodland community exists on a steep west facing slope along the Hudson River shoreline in the Luzerne Mountains. The community is within a beech-maple mesic dominated forest. This community type is considered rare (21 to 100 occurrences) statewide and globally. This particular community often occurs in small areas associated with rock outcroppings on steep slopes and cliffs.

The New York Heritage Program Law (ECL Article 11, Title 5, section 0539), lists three criteria under which a site may be considered for designation as a Natural Heritage Area. These criteria are:

1. *Provides habitat for 'endangered species' or 'threatened species' as defined in section 11-0535 of this title for animals and 9-1503 of this chapter for plants;*
2. *Provides habitat for rare species where rare means species ranked as S1, S2, or S3 under criteria developed pursuant to paragraph b of subdivision one of this section; or*
3. *Contains 'significant ecological communities' where such term means all rare ecological communities as well as the best examples of common communities.*

Both the hemlock-northern hardwood forest and the calcareous talus slope woodland meet the third criterion. The hemlock-northern hardwood forest is considered an excellent example of a common community and the calcareous talus slope woodland is a rare community type. These two ecological communities could be considered for designation as Natural Heritage Areas.

Fauna

As mentioned in Chapter II (Environmental Setting), no inventories for animal species were conducted on the park. Comparative studies have been performed and a list of species with the potential to occur is listed in Appendix B. The mammals listed are common to New York State and this region. Both big and small game can be found within the park, offering the potential for hunting. Amphibians and reptiles common to the northeast are also predicted to occur in the park.

Fish

Fish are also abundant within the park. Sport fish populations are supported within Moreau Lake and the Hudson River. There are no DOH (Department of Health) consumption advisories for Moreau Lake, which supports populations of largemouth and smallmouth bass, yellow perch and brown bullhead. Moreau Lake is also stocked each Spring with trout species by Saratoga County. Species found in the Hudson River may include brook and brown trout, bullhead, rock and smallmouth bass, yellow perch and walleye. There is a consumption advisory for this segment of river due to mercury contamination of smallmouth bass. There are no consumption advisories for this segment of river due to PCBs.

Birds

Although no bird inventories have been conducted exclusively for Moreau Lake State Park, the Breeding Bird Atlas Project 2000 (BBA) and a Bird Checklist developed for the

park do provide a comprehensive list of species with the potential to occur within the park. Many of these species have been sighted within the park and some are confirmed breeders within the park. The lists are presented in Appendix A.

The park was assessed to determine if it met any of the criteria for designation as a Bird Conservation Area (BCA) as described under Article 11, Title 20 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL). A number of sources were consulted during this evaluation including the Breeding Bird Atlas (1980-1985 and 2000-present), the Christmas Bird Counts, New York State Natural Heritage Program data, Audubon Important Bird Areas lists, the park's Bird Checklist and Preliminary Criteria Assessment. The assessment sheet is presented in Appendix F.

The results of this assessment were evaluated to determine if Moreau Lake State Park met the criteria for designation as a Bird Conservation Area (BCA). The BCA Law outlines nine criteria for which a site could qualify as a BCA. An area or site need only meet one of these criteria in order to be considered for designation. Moreau Lake State Park meets three of the nine criteria as follows:

1. Migratory Bird Concentration Site - The seven miles of wooded shoreline of the Hudson River that transects the Park serves as a migration corridor for 44 species of migratory song birds (33 common, 11 rare).
2. Diverse Species Concentration Site - The Park contains over 2,000 acres of hemlock-northern hardwood forest, some of which displays characteristics of a mature forest, which has been determined to be a significant ecological community by the NYS Natural Heritage Program. Wild Turkey, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Green Warbler, Pine Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow (Smith 1998: Checklist) represent a group of birds at Moreau Lake State Park that are supported by this community. The Park met the criterion for responsibility assemblage for forest species which contributed to its listing as an Audubon Important Bird Area (2005). The 2000 Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) interim data identified 90 species in the BBA block having the greatest overlap with the Park. Approximately 192 birds were observed.
3. Species at Risk Site - The Park supports threatened Pied-billed Grebe and Bald Eagle and special concern Common Loon, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will. A mid-winter survey of Bald Eagles in 2004-05 found at least 10 eagles on the 3 miles of the Hudson River between the Sherman Island Boat Launch and the Spier Falls Boat Launch. A radio tagged Bald Eagle (E-50) was regularly in the Park along the Hudson River during the winter of 2003-04. Although the battery was not transmitting during the winter of 2004-05, an adult Bald Eagle with a radio antenna, presumably E-50, was observed during the mid-winter surveys.

Because the Park meets the above stated criteria, portions of the park could be considered for designation as a Bird Conservation Area.

Rare, Threatened, Endangered and Species of Special Concern

Fauna

As noted in the "Environmental Setting" Chapter, the Natural Heritage Program has no records of rare, threatened, or endangered animal species within Moreau Lake State Park. A list of species that have the potential to occur in Moreau Lake State Park is presented in Appendix C. The Natural Heritage Program conducted investigations in and around wetlands and the Hudson River where rare, threatened or endangered species would most likely be found. Two rare species of dragonflies were found. With the exception of the threatened and special concern bird species identified through the BCA assessment, no other "Species at Risk" were found in the park.

Flora

Natural Heritage Program records show no known occurrences of rare plants within the park. No field investigations have been conducted to search for rare plants. Field visits during ecological community mapping also did not discover any rare plants. Comparative studies conducted on the park have generated a list of rare plants that have the potential to occur within the park (Appendix C), but as stated earlier, none are known to currently exist.

Wetlands

Several small hemlock-hardwood swamp wetlands, less than 5 acres, were found within the park. These wetlands are found in small bedrock depressions at high elevations.

A DEC regulated wetland, designated GA-1, and approximately 30 acres in size, is associated with the system of lakes and ponds, marshes and swamps located around the northern end of Moreau Lake. This wetland is considered a Class II wetland. Certain development activities will require a permit from the DEC.

A less common wetland community complex consisting of the bog lake known as Lake Ann, a small dwarf shrub bog and a 3-acre highbush blueberry bog thicket was also found in the park. Occurrences of these three community types are considered rare statewide having 21 - 100 occurrences. This wetland complex is approximately four acres in size

Cultural Resource Analysis

Three "Stage 1A (Literature Review) and Limited Stage 1B Cultural Resource Investigation" reports were produced for this park. Each report was focused on a different area of the park. The reports viewed as a whole provide an overall indication of archeological sensitivity and a listing of cultural resources within the park.

The entire region surrounding the park is considered to be potentially sensitive for prehistoric sites because of the physiographic features and its natural resources. The Hudson River would have served as a main transportation corridor and the availability of resources such as outcrops, chert and limestone make the area conducive to procurement and habitation sites for native peoples. The topography is also believed to be preferable for use as occupation sites although no evidence of such sites have been found. While no prehistoric

sites are known within the park boundaries, the potential for the area of the park to have prehistoric sites and to have been used for hunting-gathering grounds is moderate to high.

One of the major industries of the 19th century was tan bark production. Logging and sawmills were popular along the shores of the Hudson River. Great log drives would carry vast amounts of logs down the Hudson River to the waiting sawmills in Glens Falls. At the beginning of the 20th century (1900) a great feat of engineering was undertaken as the construction of Spier Falls Dam was begun. The Spier Falls Dam, at that time, was the fourth largest dam in the world. The use of the Hudson River and its contribution to the industrialization of the State is an important resource for interpretation.

Historical period resources may be represented by archeological remains of residences, abandoned logging camps or sawmill facilities within the mountainous terrain. Sawmill remains would most likely be found within proximity of the streams that cross local roads. Archeological features associated with the Spier Falls Dam may still exist on the banks of the Hudson River.

A list of eleven archeological sites and historic structures pre-dating 1950 is presented in the Environmental Setting.

Scenic Resource Analysis

Staff have inventoried and documented locations along trails, roads and water courses that offer near and distant scenic views of the park and its surroundings. Many locations are identified on the park's Trails Map and the Recreation Resources map (Map 12). The Western Ridge trail offers many opportunities for distant and panoramic views of the Hudson River, Luzerne Mountains and Spier Falls Dam. Views from the Ridge Run Trail include the Lake Champlain and Hudson River Valleys. Near views of Moreau Lake exist along the Lakeshore and Nature Trails and near views of the Hudson exist from the Warren County and Saratoga County river shorelines. The Spier Falls and Sherman Island boat launches also offer views of the Luzerne Mountains rising from the Hudson River shoreline. Views of the Palmertown Mountains exist from the Warren County shoreline and the Hudson River. The overlooks on the Western Ridge trail can be seen from the Spier Falls Boat Launch and the Hudson River. The Moreau Overlook Trail, the Red Oak Ridge Trail, and the Turkey Path offer stunning views to the lake below and the Green Mountains in the distance. Photos of some of the views of and from Moreau Lake State Park are shown in Appendix G.

Infrastructure Analysis

Roads are in good condition throughout the park. Some roads require general maintenance while others will require resurfacing. Old Saratoga Road, Mountain Road and Spier Falls Road are owned by either the Town or County and maintenance responsibility for those roads belongs to them.

There are no vehicular bridges on park roads. There are three footbridges within the park. One is on the Lakeshore Trail near the Lakeshore Cottage, another is on a connector trail from the campground to the Nature Trail and the third is on a hiking trail leading from the Nature Trail to camping loops F and G over a small drainage ditch. These bridges are used by pedestrians. They are in good condition and maintained by the Park.

Most of the Park's buildings were constructed in the 1960s while the Park was being prepared to receive the public. Some buildings that existed prior to the Park's establishment were adapted for park uses and are now considered historic. Some of these buildings have been abandoned or were demolished. It is possible to find adaptive uses for the remaining buildings. Some could be moved to more practical locations while others may have to be torn down. A comprehensive building conditions report should be prepared in consultation with the Regional Office and a plan developed for building use repair and upgrading. The boat house was recently renovated and converted into a Nature Center.

Utilities include water supply, septic and sewage disposal systems, telephone, electric, heating, and petroleum storage. These systems serve the existing camping, day use and administrative areas of the park. They serve the current capacity of the park. Expansions and upgrades to utilities and water systems will be necessary if the capacity of the park is increased.

New infrastructure will be required in areas of new development. The type and extent of the new utility services required will depend upon the level and type of developments proposed.

Land Acquisition

There are no plans to further expand Moreau Lake State Park. However, the Agency may be interested in obtaining easements for establishing public access. The Agency will evaluate and consider acquiring any adjacent properties or in-holdings as they become available for purposes of access, resource protection or recreation expansion.

Resource Protection and Use Suitability

Management Areas

The park can be divided into four distinct management areas: Lake Recreation Area, Palmertown Mountains, Hudson River Corridor, and Warren County. These divisions identify the uniqueness of each area and recognize the need for differing management strategies which reflect the types of uses, facilities and resources in these areas. For instance, the Palmertown Mountains are used and well suited for trail activities and enjoying the scenic vistas, where as the Lake Recreation Area focuses on more intensive recreational activities such as camping, beach swimming and group activities. The Palmertown Mountains area is mostly undeveloped forest land on rugged terrain with steep slopes. The Lake Recreation Area has many areas that are in a natural state, but also has developed facilities such as parking lots, picnic pavilions, a sand beach, and 148 campsites that support the vast number of patrons that visit the park. While some management strategies may be similar or related (an action in one area may affect an adjacent area), the basic management focus is entirely different. Alternative management and development directions have been developed for each one of these areas using the existing conditions, the recommended directions and constraints and considerations identified in the resource analysis. Map 13 shows generally how the park is divided into the four management areas. The boundaries shown on this map are for management purposes only and are not to be construed as hard boundaries to be marked on the ground.

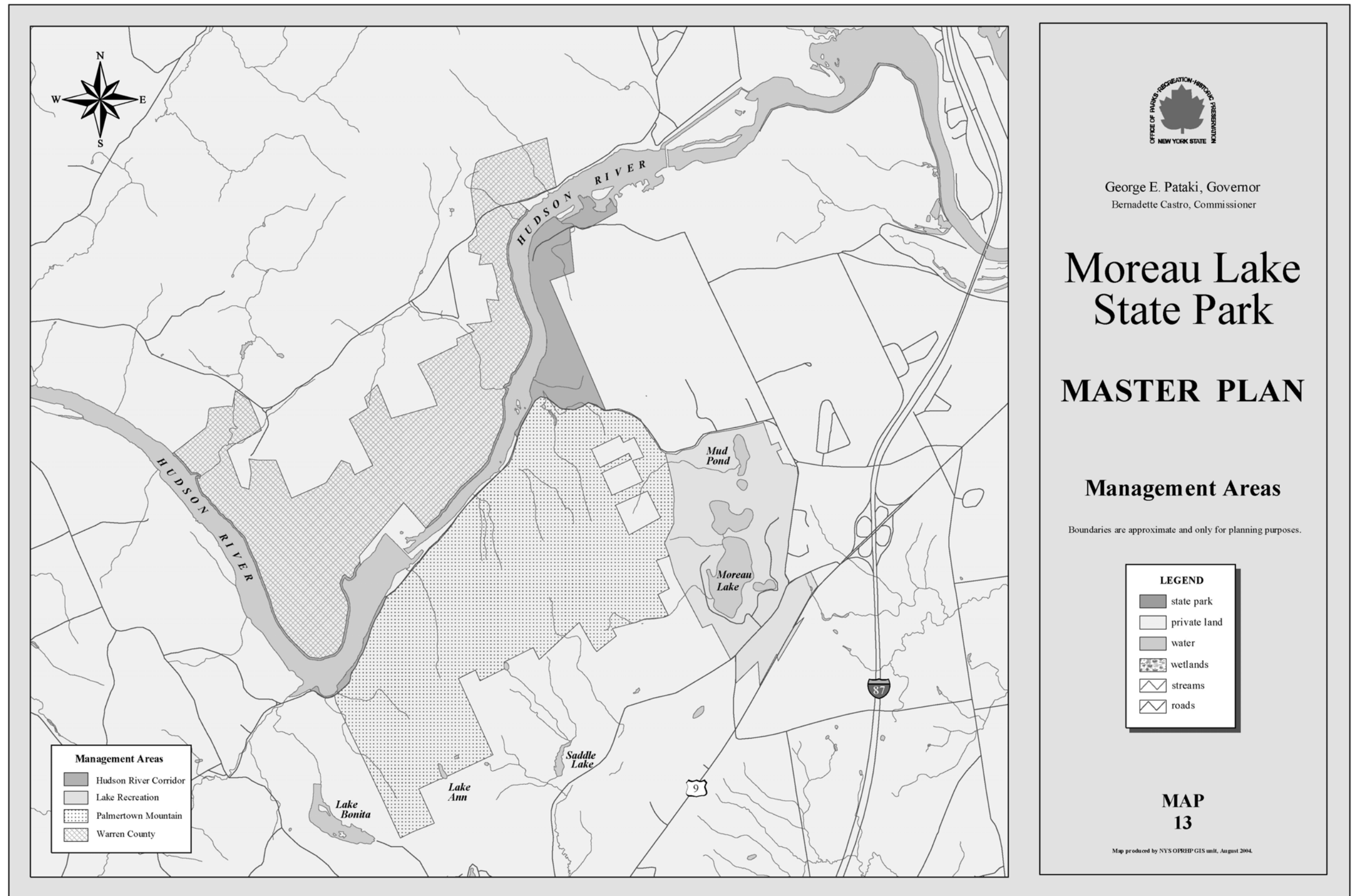
The **Lake Recreation Management Area** can be defined as the area surrounding Moreau Lake. It is comprised of the park entrance, the property between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road, the day use area, the campground, the lake and its associated ponds, and the network of trails that surround the lake and lead to the north and west into the Palmertown Mountains. Its boundary to the Palmertown Mountains is the ridgeline to the west of the lake where the "Turkey Path" trail is located.

The **Palmertown Mountain Management Area** contains numerous trails, trailheads and parking areas. This area is bounded by the Hudson River Corridor to the north and west and the Lake Recreation Area, private lands and other State-owned lands to the south and east. The northern boundary can be considered Spier Falls Road as it parallels the Hudson River.

The **Hudson River Corridor Management Area** contains two boat launches -- the Spier Falls Launch and the Sherman Island Launch -- pull off parking areas on the river side of Spier Falls road, the Hudson River and water accessible sites within the Warren County property. It is bounded on the south by Spier Falls Road and includes the property parallel to the river on the north side of Spier Falls Road (including the Potter's Point area). Its northern boundary is a line that parallels the Hudson River shoreline approximately 50 feet inland

The **Warren County Management Area** consists of all land accessible facilities or structures within the portion of the park located north of the Hudson River in the Towns of Luzerne and Queensbury. The southern boundary parallels the Hudson River Corridor Area's boundary and the northern boundary follows the northern park property boundary, which is a jagged path around private residences and commercial properties.

Map 13 – Management Areas



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Recreation Development Alternatives

An analysis of the recreation options was conducted to determine the appropriate and preferred uses for a park classified as Scenic. This analysis is presented in tabular form. The alternatives are grouped according to the Management Areas defined above and then the tables are organized by activity. The public scoping process and resource analyses were used to determine uses/activities appropriate for each Management Area. The activities analyzed within each Management Area were selected based upon the resource issues and character of the Management Area. Activities considered active or intensive, such as camping, boating, and group picnicking, were directed towards areas that traditionally supported such uses.

Hudson River Corridor Management Area

The Hudson River Corridor Management Area consists of the waters of the Hudson River, its shorelines and the immediately adjacent land side amenities such as water accessed campsites, shoreline trails and boat launch sites.

Access	
<p>Existing Conditions: The Hudson River Corridor is primarily accessed from the Spier Falls and Sherman Island Boat Launches and various “pull-offs” along Spier Falls Road (See also boating, picnicking and camping alternatives). Access from the north is limited by access to the Warren County Management Area (See Warren County Management Area Access alternatives).</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the river corridor will continue to be provided via the Spier Falls and Sherman Island boat launches. • Access to water access campsites will continue. • “Potter’s Point” will not be accessible by land. • No access will be provided from Warren County.
2. Improve and expand existing parking at the Sherman Island boat launch (See also Boating/Boat Launching alternatives).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate parking for boaters, hikers and day users. • Create an additional parking area for day users/picnickers. • Designate smaller parking areas near the entrance as trail head parking.

<p>3. Minor expansion of parking at the Spier Falls boat launch (See also Boating/Boat Launching alternatives).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires removal of vegetation. • Limited space at the launch. • Limited sight distance at the entrance/exit of the launch area.
<p>4. Improve existing “pull-offs” (see also Picnicking alternatives).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorelines are steep. • Some shoreline areas would require stabilization. • Areas may invite illegal swimming or camping. • Could provide fisherman access. • Picnic table theft or vandalism could occur. • Provides access to scenic vistas.
<p>5. Provide water accessed campsites at the “Potter’s Point” area and develop road access as other camping facilities area developed (see also Camping and Cottages/Cabins alternatives).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road corridors to and within the area exist. • The road is single lane and will need to be expanded for two-way traffic. • Site is level. • Site previously used for cabins. • Primitive sites could be easily established, access to the river and cleared areas already exist. • Provides a unique Hudson River camping experience.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternatives 2 - 5</p> <p>The preferred options for access focus on improving the site designs of the boat launch parking areas and “pull-offs” along Spier Falls Road. The only additions to access occur at “Potter’ Point” and Corinth Road in Warren County. At first, access to “Potter’s Point will be from the water and later, as camping is developed further, access from land will be reestablished and improved. An access point is also proposed from Warren County off of Corinth Road via Niagara Mohawk (National Grid) property. An agreement with National Grid will be needed to cross their property. This is discussed under Warren County Access Alternatives.</p>	

Trail Activities

This section will focus on trails specifically related to water recreation. Land based trails will be discussed within the other Management Areas.

Category: Water Trail

Existing Conditions: The Hudson River provides a corridor that is attractive to canoeists and kayakers. No water trail is specifically designated in this reach of the river. The power company, in accordance with their operating license from FERC, has created four water access camp sites, two portage trails, and two boat launches. They also installed accessible water access/fishing piers at each of the boat launches and two seasonal portable toilets were installed at the larger of the two boat launches.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue management and operation of the four campsites, two boat launches and the portage trail around Spier Falls Dam.• No promotion of the water trail or its facilities.
2. Promote the segment of river through the Park as a water trail or paddlers trail through the development of promotional materials such as brochures, and maps that highlight the water trail and its amenities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will require policing of sites by Park Police and Park Staff.• Will attract more users to the area.• May require more and/or improved amenities such as pit privies and additional sites.
3. Improve and expand the existing facilities and coordinate with the current owner of the power generating stations regarding the improvements and expansions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider adding more camping sites.• Camping sites in clusters of 2 or 3 may require pit privies.• Expand picnicking facilities and parking at Sherman Island Boat Launch.• Sherman Island Boat Launch may require improved comfort facilities.• The use of the water access campsites will have to be monitored for use to assess impacts.

Preferred Option: Alternatives 2 and 3

Creating and promoting a water trail within this segment of river restores a sense of navigability to the river. For centuries before the construction of Spier Falls Dam, the river was used as a highway to transport people and goods. Portages around dams and water-accessed campsites provide the opportunity to serve “through paddlers” who want to experience the history and nature of the river. Continuing the water trail beyond the park boundaries will require cooperation and coordination with non-profit organizations and local municipalities. The water trail concept is not new to the Hudson River, as it is being developed from Peebles Island State Park in Waterford south to Battery Park in Manhattan through the efforts of the Hudson River Valley Greenway. However, progress in extending the concept north beyond Peebles Island State Park has not been aggressively pursued.

Benefits of promoting the water trail concept can include revitalizing local economies; providing opportunities for self-discovery and building outdoor skills; teaching nature, history and stewardship of resources.

As the water trail concept expands and use becomes more frequent, partnerships with organizations, municipalities, the current owners of the power generation stations (Spier Falls and Sherman Island Dams) and other State Agencies may be necessary to provide and improve the existing facilities. Improvement and expansion of facilities within the park should be designed to fit the character of the park and not compromise the quality of the experience or the resources of the river corridor.

Category: Saratoga-Warren County Connection

Existing Conditions: There are no connector trails, bridges or routes that connect the Saratoga Co. trails to the Warren Co. trails within the Park. The Spier Falls Dam does not permit pedestrians to cross nor does OPRHP have access to the Dam. Access to the Warren Co. area is obtained by either crossing the river by boat or driving around to the nearest vehicular bridge in Glens Falls or Corinth.

1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to use existing bridges further up and down stream for vehicular crossings. All other crossings can be accomplished by boat.
2. Develop a pedestrian bridge that crosses the Hudson River and links the two sides of the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could connect trails on the Saratoga Co. side to trails on the Warren Co. side. Expense compared to amount of use is prohibitive. Would be visually intrusive and would not be consistent with the character of the river.
3. Identify trailheads that are water accessible and connect the Warren Co side trails to the Saratoga Co. side trails via crossing the river by boat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both the Spier Falls Launch and the Sherman Island Launch can be used as trailheads. Landing locations will need to be identified on the Warren Co. side.

Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 3.

While providing pedestrian or vehicular access over the Hudson River to connect the two sections of the park would seem to be desirable or even logical, realistically it is not feasible to do so. The proposed classification for the park is “Scenic Park” and one of the most valuable features of this park is the natural, scenic quality of the Hudson River. Constructing a bridge, even a narrow one would infringe on the very qualities that make the river attractive. In recognizing the need to provide some “connectivity” to the two “sides” of the park, Alternative 3 provides a non-intrusive option. The two existing boat launches on the south shore can serve as trailheads and with the use of canoes, kayaks and small boats, crossing the river can be accommodated. The Status Quo alternative continues the practice of using public roads and existing vehicular bridges to provide access to the Warren County area (See Warren County Management Area access alternatives.)

Birding/Wildlife Observation

Existing Conditions: The large expanse of forest and the waterbodies within the park provide habitat for a high diversity of bird species and an abundance of wildlife. This type of activity is usually secondary to other primary activities such as hiking, boating or canoeing. No viewing platforms exist within the park; however, open areas and scenic overlooks provide an opportunity to view birds and wildlife.

Within this management area boating/canoeing provides opportunities to view birds and wildlife. Trailheads, boat launches, parking and water-accessed campsites are available locations for land based viewing. Kiosks at each boat launch site display Park and boat launch site rules and regulations.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific viewing locations will be identified.
2. Place kiosks and informational panels for the kiosks at the boat launch sites that provide information on the birds and wildlife in the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controls the amount of signing needed in the management area. Panels can be rotated to coincide with interpretive panels. Kiosks are already in place.
3. Provide brochures, check lists and other literature at trailheads and boat launch sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires that a continued stock of brochures be provided. Creates a litter potential. These materials are provided at the Park Office and Nature Center.

Preferred Option: Alternative 2

The preferred alternatives use the existing signage at the boat launch sites to distribute information about the birds and wildlife within the park. No platforms or specific viewing locations are identified within this area. The preferred alternatives continue to recognize that birding and wildlife observation often take place as secondary activities. Many of the considerations for this activity can be addressed in other activity categories.

Scenic Areas and Vistas

Existing Conditions: The Hudson River and the forested mountains are considered scenic. They can be viewed from trails and overlooks outside the Hudson River Corridor Area and the Spier Falls and Sherman Island Boat Launches within the corridor as well as from locations along Spier Falls Road and the corridor itself from a water craft.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific scenic vantage points are identified.

<p>2. Identify and map locations along Spier Falls Road that provide access to scenic views of the river and the Warren Co. shoreline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing areas along the river become popular picnic spots. • Traffic could build up along Spier Falls Road and create an unsafe roadway for both vehicles and park patrons. • Locations currently exist and are being used for river access.
<p>3. Identify and map locations along the Warren Co. shoreline that provide scenic views of the Palmertown Mountains and the river.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campsites could be identified as providing scenic views of the river and the Palmertown Mountains. • Identify the "Old Boat Launch" off Corinth Road as a scenic vantage point (north shore). • Placing signs along the shoreline would detract from the scenic value of the river.
<p>4. Develop brochures, maps and other materials that identify locations of scenic views.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials such as brochures and maps can be distributed at the Park Office.

Preferred Option: Alternatives 2 and 4
The preferred options provide the opportunity for the public to access the area and experience the scenery without intruding on the resource. Identifying access points on maps and brochures rather than putting up signs and kiosks helps to maintain the naturalness of the area and enhances the type of experience being offered to visitors.

Interpretive Programs

Existing Conditions: The Hudson River and the large expanse of forest surrounding the Hudson River provides habitat for a high diversity of bird species and an abundance of wildlife. Certain man-made features such as the Spier Falls Dam and ruins of worker housing add human interest and historical value to the area. There are a number of locations and opportunities to experience wildlife and other interpretive themes. Kiosks, some interpretive panels and programs have been developed and are used to help interpret the outstanding features of the area for the public. Guided tours, both on land and water, are offered along the river corridor.

Options	Considerations
<p>1. Status Quo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current signage, kiosks, and brochures will be used to interpret the various themes of the area. • Guided tours, both on land and water will continue.

<p>2. Develop additional interpretive panels specific to wildlife, natural features, the history of Spier Falls Dam and other interpretive themes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretive panels could be used at boat launch site kiosks. • Multiple panels can be displayed on kiosks. • Panels can be rotated to different locations to keep interest or present season appropriate information.
<p>3. Develop additional interpretive brochures and programs that identify specific resources such as wildlife, scenery or history.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials such as brochures and maps can be distributed at the Park Office (See boat launching and access alternatives). • Brochures and maps can be used to present self-guided tours of an area.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternatives 2 These three alternatives represent different levels of development that cater to a self-guided type of discovery and interpretive experience. Existing kiosks are designed so that panels can be changed or rotated periodically. Developing additional panels allows the park to present a variety of interpretive themes according to programming schedules or seasons. Information on wildlife of the park, natural features or history panels can be rotated through the various kiosk locations. Providing brochures, maps and other paper materials can contribute to litter and an unkept appearance to the public. Guided tours given by volunteer groups or park staff will continue in order to encourage first time or inexperienced visitors to explore the park.</p>	

Camping and Cottages/Cabins

Category: Primitive, Water-accessed Camping

Existing Conditions: Primitive camping is currently permitted at designated sites along the Hudson River. A primitive campsite is defined as a cleared area within a short distance from a trail (land or water based) that can be used for a one or two night stay. Sites are designated and a fire ring is provided in an appropriate location. These sites are designed to be used as low - impact, carry-in/carry-out sites. There are four primitive campsites that are designed to be water-accessed within this management area - two within the Spier Falls impoundment and two within the Sherman Island impoundment. Within the Spier Falls impoundment, the sites are located at the mouth of Bennie Brook. The two sites within the Sherman Island impoundment are located at the mouth of Hartman Creek almost directly across the river from the Sherman Island boat launch. These sites are used on a first come-first served basis. Sites may only be occupied for one or two nights and then campers are required to move on.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains the four existing primitive camp sites as water access sites. • Requires monitoring of use and impacts of the existing sites.
2. As necessary, expand primitive camping experiences for canoeists, river travelers and hikers in designated areas along the north shoreline of the Hudson River.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furthers the establishment of a water trail/ paddler's trail on the Hudson River. • Would require establishing land side access for land based trail users. • Would require policing for trash and extended stays. • Extended stays might degrade the resources. • May invite overnight parking at the boat launch areas.
3. Improve the existing sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide pit privies as necessary. • Provide water supply for campers.
4. Designate additional primitive, water-accessed camp sites at the "Potter's Point" area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site is level. • Site previously used for Cabins. • Primitive sites could easily be established, access to the river, cleared areas already established. • Access from Potters Road is not possible

	<p>at this time. Town has road gated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a unique experience of camping on the Hudson River. • A loop of five or more campsites will require potable water source and sanitary facilities.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternatives 2, 3 and 4</p> <p>Primitive, water-accessed camping is considered an important activity within this management area as the focus is directed to using and accessing the river. It is believed that the four water accessed campsites established by the power company will be used on a regular basis. As promotion and awareness of the “water trail” increase, demand for more of this type of site will increase. Clustering sites, rather than spreading out sites preserves the long stretches of natural shoreline and concentrates use in appropriate areas. With more sites come concerns about waste disposal and sanitary facilities. The initial locations of the water access sites were chosen with expansion in mind. Alternatives 2 and 3 focus on the additions of water-accessed campsites in the general vicinity of the existing sites and providing site amenities such as privies and water supplies.</p> <p>The development of the water trail and additional water accessed campsites may also impact parking at the Park’s Hudson River boat launches. The potential for the launches to be used as a starting or ending point for water trail and campsite users, invites overnight parking and associated security issues. The establishment of an overnight parking permit may be necessary.</p> <p>Alternative 4 provides an opportunity to use the very attractive Potter’s Point area. It is proposed that water-access camping be established here as a first level of development. Further development proposals include providing tent trailer sites and ultimately the addition of a 8-unit cabin/cottage colony (See below).</p>	
<p>Category: Cabins/Cottages</p> <p>Existing conditions: Other than the Lakeshore Cottage in the Lake Recreation Management Area, there are no other cabin or cottage camping opportunities with in the park.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional cabin or cottage facilities are provided.
2. Develop a cottage/cabin colony in the "Potter's Point" area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabins previously existed at this site • Requires access via land for patrons and maintenance. • May require an additional storage/maintenance area near by. • The road is only single lane and will need to be expanded for two-way traffic. • May require a contact station. • Area could also be considered for a

	<p>campground.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabins are more expensive to construct than campsites. • Cabins would be more isolated from the Lake Recreation Area requiring patrons to travel a great distance to use the day use area or other park facilities. • Creates another group of users with rights to enter the day use area of the park. Could create a problem when the park is already at capacity. • Provides a unique experience of camping on the Hudson River. • Water, septic and electric would need to be installed.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternative 2 Cabin/Cottage camping in State Parks is a popular activity. Cabins were previously located within the area identified in this alternative. It is recognized that re-establishing a cabin colony in this area may be attractive and desirable in the long-term. In the immediate future, use of the area will be focused on river accessed camping and progressed in stages to the addition of a cabin/cottage colony.</p>	
<p>Category: <u>Tent/Trailer</u></p>	
<p>Existing Conditions: There is no tent/trailer campground area within this management area.</p>	
Options	Considerations
<p>1. Status Quo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide improved camping opportunities within the Lake Recreation Management Area. • No additional revenue. • No new construction costs. • No new camping experience along the river.
<p>2. Develop a campground at the “Potter's Point” area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site is level. • Site previously used for Cabins. • Could establish a campground easily, road corridors exist, access to the river, cleared areas already established. • Access from Potters Road is not possible at this time. Town has road gated.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The road is only single lane and will need to be expanded for two-way traffic. • May require second contact station. • Creates another group of users with rights to enter the day use area of the park. Could create a problem when the park is already at capacity. • Provides a unique experience of camping on the Hudson River. • A loop of five or more campsites will require potable water source and sanitary facilities.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternative 2 As mentioned in the Cabin/Cottage Category the Potter’s Point area is suitable for the development of a cabin/cottage colony. It is proposed that this type of camping is also appropriate and would be developed as a second phase following the development of primitive campsites. Developing a small campground (40 sites) would allow the initial infrastructure to be installed that would eventually lead to the additional development of cabins and/or cottages.</p>	

Hunting	
<p>Existing Conditions: Small and big game hunting is permitted in designated areas. DEC statewide hunting regulations apply. Safety zones are established around developed areas. Parking is available near the park entrance and along Spier Falls Road. In addition to a valid NYS Hunting license, a hunting permit must be obtained from the park office.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain hunting as a permitted activity on park lands.
2. Expand and modify no hunting/safety zones as new facilities are developed within the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives park flexibility to modify safety zones as development phases are completed.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 2 Hunting is a traditional use of the property and will be continued within the rules and regulations of the DEC and OPRHP. As facilities are developed the modification of safety zones will be necessary to comply with State hunting laws and to insure the safety of park users. Safety zones are usually established around residential areas, road ways and, in the instance of a State Park, around areas with a high concentration of park users such as day use areas and campgrounds. Hunting seasons are modified by the Park in consultation with DEC to protect certain wildlife species when necessary. OPRHP will continue to work with the DEC to provide hunting opportunities within Moreau Lake State Park.</p>	

Fishing	
Existing Conditions: Fishing occurs on the Hudson River. Fishing from shore and from water craft are both permitted. DEC statewide fishing regulations apply. There are accessible shore fishing areas at the Spier Falls and Sherman Island Boat Launches.	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to allow fishing in the Hudson River. Provide appropriate parking, shore and boat access to the Hudson River.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo</p> <p>Thriving fish populations in the Hudson River attract many fishermen to this management area. The Park, through agreements with DEC and the current owner of the power generation stations will maintain access to the river and its shorelines for fishing.</p>	

Swimming	
Existing Conditions: Swimming in the Hudson River is currently not permitted.	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently not permitted.
2. Develop a swimming access area along the shores of the Hudson River.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoreline is not conducive to swimming. Bathing beaches require lifeguard staff. Bathing beaches must comply with DOH requirements. Requires a parking area. There is not enough space to provide parking on the river side of Spier Falls Road. Providing parking on land side of Spier Falls Road will require patrons to cross the road, which is unsafe.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo</p> <p>Despite efforts to restore swimming in the Hudson River, a suitable site to provide this activity could not be located. After analyzing the potential for an additional swimming area within the Park, it was concluded that swimming is not an appropriate activity for this management area. The Status Quo alternative was then chosen as the preferred option.</p>	

Picnicking
Existing Conditions: Informal picnics may take place along side of Spier Falls Road or in the Boat Launch parking areas. The Sherman Island Boat Launch provides picnic tables and

seasonal portable toilet facilities. The Spier Falls Boat Launch provides only picnic tables	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some shoreline and bank areas will erode. • Parking along the road is a safety hazard. • Invites illegal swimming.
2. Improve existing “pull-off” parking areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorelines are steep. • Some shoreline areas would require stabilization. • Areas may invite illegal swimming or illegal camping. • Could provide fisherman access. • Picnic table theft and or vandalism could occur. • Provides access to scenic vistas.
3. Develop designated picnic sites along the shoreline of the Hudson River. With "pull-off" parking provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorelines are steep. • Some shoreline areas would require stabilization. • Areas may invite illegal swimming or illegal camping. • Could provide fisherman access. • Picnic table theft and or vandalism could occur. • Provides access to scenic vistas.
4. Improve the Sherman Island Boat Launch as a picnic area that includes picnic sites/tables and comfort facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with the power company's recreation plan. • May require more of a Park presence to monitor. • May be convenient for boaters to load and unload gear or eat a meal before or after a boat trip. • Picnic table theft and or vandalism could occur.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternative 2 and 4 Under Alternative 2, the use of existing “pull-off” parking areas will be continued. Simply improving the condition of these sites will provide the opportunity to for visitors passing through to stop to eat lunch at a scenic riverside location and continue on their trip. More</p>	

opportunities for picnicking can be offered at the Sherman Island Boat Launch. A few tables are placed there now for boaters and fishermen to use. Alternative 4 recognizes that there is space available to expand picnicking and provide some day user amenities. The site can be expanded to accommodate more formal picnicking sites and create a satellite day use facility (See Boating/Boat Launching Alternatives).

Boating/Boat Launching

Existing Conditions: Boating is permitted in the Hudson River including the use of motorized boats. Boaters must obey marine navigation rules including speed and wake restrictions. There are two boat launches within this management area; one in the Spier Falls impoundment and the other in the Sherman Island impoundment. Access to these launches is obtained from Spier Falls Road. Parking for the two boat launches is first come-first served. There is no vehicle use fee to use these launches.

Lake/ Water body	Launch type	Parking Capacity	Active (being used)	Condition
Hudson River (Sherman Island)	Cartop - Gravel	15 car/trailer and 10 car spaces	Yes	Fair
Hudson River (Spier Falls)	One trailer - Cement	5-6 car/trailer	Yes	Fair

Category: Spier Falls Boat Launch

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current operation and condition of the boat launch area will be maintained.
2. Minor expansion of parking at the Spier Falls boat launch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires removal of vegetation. Limited space. Limited sight distance at entrance/exit of launch on Spier Falls Road.
3. Major expansion of parking spaces, improving the entrance, provide comfort and picnicking facilities, and creating a second entrance on Spier Falls Road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical space is limited. Requires extensive removal of vegetation. Potable water supplies would need to be established for comfort facilities (unless composting or portable facilities are used). Requires grading, filling and shoreline stabilization. Disturbs view of residents across the road. Increases noise and traffic in front of

	<p>residences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site distance may be insufficient for exiting vehicles. • May encourage larger boats and motors.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 2 Space and sight distances at the entrance limit the potential for expansion of this launch facility. Although the impoundment can accommodate more use, providing appropriate access is the limiting factor. This limits use and as a result provides a more remote river experience. A greater expansion could be attempted but this would require significant alteration of the shoreline, town road and launch configuration. In order to keep the natural experience of the river the Status Quo and Alternative 2 were chosen as preferred.</p>	
<p>Category: Sherman Island Boat Launch</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current operation and condition of the boat launch area will be maintained.
2. Improve and expand parking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate boaters, hikers and day users by providing a separate car parking area for day users. This would also reduce congestion at the launch area. • Existing parking areas toward the entrance off Spier Falls Road can be designated for use by hikers as trailhead parking.
3. Improve and expand the launch ramp. For example providing a two-lane, concrete launch ramp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to increase the number of boats on the river. • May increase the size of the boats on the river. • May deter canoeist and kayakers from using the launch forcing them to find another place to access the river.
4. Construct a contact station.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park could charge a VUF. • Establishes a park presence. (needed for overnight parking) • Provides control over number of vehicles using the site. • Sight distance is poor at entrance (for both entering and exiting vehicles) could create a "stacking problem". • Deed restrictions prevent the

	development of habitable structures below a specified elevation. The entrance to the boat launch site is below that elevation.
5. Improve comfort facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the installation of pit privies, composting toilets chemical toilets or water and septic systems. • Requires regular maintenance/ monitoring.
6. Expand picnic sites (tables and grills).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May encourage "partying". • Would provide a location for cooking fires. • More frequent monitoring and clean up would be required by park staff. • May require additional parking for picnic only vehicles. • Picnic only vehicles may take up parking that could be used by boaters. (Takes away boat access opportunities.) • Also see picnicking alternatives.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternatives 2, 3, 5 and 6</p> <p>This boat launch has the potential to provide more formalized recreation on the river. In combination with a potential campground/cottage/cabin colony proposed at Potter's Point, river accessed camp sites and boating activity, this would make the Sherman Island Impoundment the focus of more intensive recreational uses. Alternative 2 recognizes that separating day use/picnicking, hiking and boating parking areas reduces congestion at the launch and makes parking available for trail users. The addition of a separate gravel parking area for day users and picnickers will allow for a better traffic flow and easier launching. The current ramp is designed to be a two-lane ramp; however, the gravel/crushed stone surface does not encourage use of two lanes. Paving or providing a non-skid concrete ramp with some courtesy loading docks would improve the launch condition and capacity. This is the only launch within this impoundment, thus the number of boats can be dictated by the size and capacity of this launch. Alternative 3 recognizes the potential for improving the launch while also noting the potential impacts to the boating capacity of the impoundment. This impoundment has a lower capacity than the Spier Falls Impoundment; however, current use does not reach capacity. Alternative 5 recognizes that by increasing the capacity and adding or improving facilities, more support facilities are needed. Currently portable toilets are available seasonally at the site. As use increases, it may be necessary to offer more permanent facilities or more of the portable toilets. Picnic sites at the launch are limited and consist of only a few tables. There is appropriate space to add additional picnic sites that provide tables and grills within this area as recommended by Alternative 6. Some short trails could also be created to transform this boat launch into a satellite day use area.</p>	

Administration/Maintenance

Existing Conditions: No formal park entrance exists. The only Park facilities that indicate a Park presence are the Spier Falls and Sherman Island Boat Launch Sites and water-accessed campsites. There is no maintenance structure or shed at any of these facilities. Currently maintenance and administration of these facilities is coordinated through the Park Office and the Park Maintenance Facility in the Lake Recreation Area Management Area. Park Police periodically patrol the area for security purposes.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Park Maintenance structure or shed will be provided. • Maintenance by Park Staff will be coordinated from the Park Office and Park Maintenance Facility. • Park Police will continue periodic patrols.
2. Provide a small storage structure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be subject to vandalism and break-ins. • Provides a space to store supplies. • Could be incorporated into a kiosk, interpretive structure or contact station.
3. Provide a contact station at the Sherman Island Boat Launch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of the boat launch to incorporate picnicking may require this use. • Could create a vehicle stacking problem that would interfere with traffic on Spier Falls Road. • Could provide additional revenue for the park. • Requires staff to man the booths. • Provides a measure of security. • Issues with overnight parking for water-accessed campsite users. • Deed restrictions prevent the development of habitable structures below a specified elevation. The entrance to the boat launch is below this elevation.

<p>4. Establish partnerships with friends groups, local governments and/or non-profit organizations to assist with maintenance and security.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists park in maintenance and security. • Provides more efficient service.
<p>5. Provide appropriate signage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a means to communicate park rules and regulations for use of the park property. • May be subject to vandalism and theft. • Identifies when patrons are entering park lands.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternatives 4 and 5 No maintenance structure or contact station exists at this boat launch. It is envisioned that this site could become a satellite day use area for the park. Therefore, Alternative 5 would provide a minimal park presence and potential for further revenue. These developments however would not take place in immediate phases of plan implementation. In the interim the Status Quo alternative will be maintained and Alternative 4 will be initiated.</p>	

Warren County Management Area

The Warren County Management Area consists of the park lands north of the Hudson River in the Towns of Lake Luzerne and Queensbury. There are no formalized recreational facilities or uses within this management area. Public access is limited, there are a number of old service and woods roads throughout the area, and many informal trails have been established through recreational use.

Access	
<p>Existing Conditions: No formal park entrance exists. Access to the property can be obtained via Corinth Road and Hawk Road. Visitors may also access this property via the Hudson River shoreline (water access is discussed within the Hudson River Corridor Management Area).</p>	
<p>Category: Hawk Road (South Entrance)</p>	
<p>Existing Conditions: A gated service road at the end of Hawk Rd. serves as access to park property. The gate prevents unauthorized vehicular use of the one-lane, gravel service road that leads to Spier Falls Dam. The current owner of the power generating stations and National Grid have rights to use the road to access their properties and structures. The road shows evidence that it is being used as a trail. Illegal ATV use of the road is also evident. There is no public parking available, nor is there signage identifying access to park land.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Hawk Road Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use will continue through informal access by local residents. • Users have no parking available.
2. Hawk Road 1: Use an existing small open area for parking 5-10 cars.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires some grading and surfacing. • Does not provide enough space for users that bring trailers (equestrians or snowmobilers). • Operational and management issues due to its distance from the Park Office and maintenance facilities. • Has the potential to provide year-round access. • Improvements to the service road may require 2 lanes of paved road. • A new gate or barrier will have to be installed after the parking area to prevent vehicular use of the road by the general public. • Does not require the removal of large

	trees.
<p>3. Hawk Road 2: Use an existing large open area to provide parking for 10 + cars or 5 car/trailers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located further into park property along the service road. • Offers a great view, could also serve as an informal picnic area. • Requires a longer segment of the service road be improved. • Some grading of the site is also required. • Does not require the removal of large trees. • Operational and management issues due to its distance from the Park Office and maintenance facilities. • Has the potential to provide year-round access. • Improvements to the service road may require 2 lanes of paved road. • A new gate or barrier will have to be installed after the parking area to prevent vehicular use of the road by the general public.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternative 3 Primary use of the Warren Co. Management Area is expected to be trail use. Access is required by National Grid and the current owner of the hydroelectric power generating stations in order to maintain facilities and power lines. The creation of the 10+ car/5 car-trailer parking lot in an existing cleared area as described in Alternative 3 provides a defined access point and establishes the Park's identity in Warren Co. Operating this lot on a year round basis would require plowing of the access road and lot. The access road would need improvement to handle vehicular traffic. Monitoring use can be accomplished by park police patrols, staff visits, trail volunteer groups, friends groups, and trailhead registers.</p>	
<p>Category: Corinth Road (North Entrance)</p> <p>Existing Conditions: Currently there is a "pull-off" on the westbound lane of Corinth Road. Users must cross Corinth Road (a 55 mph posted road) to reach trails, informal picnic sites and the site of an old boat launch within the Hudson River Corridor Management Area and the Warren County Management Area. This "pull-off" is also used as parking to access the Brook Trail. This "pull-off" is not on park property.</p>	
Options	Considerations

1. Corinth Road Status Quo: No formal access is provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users continue to use the “pull-off” and cross Corinth Road to access the Hudson River shoreline and trails.
2. Corinth Road/Niagara Mohawk (National Grid) Land: Use an abandoned entrance road on National Grid Land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An agreement with National Grid would be needed to establish a trailhead and parking area on their property. • Area is a reclaimed hazardous waste site.
3. Corinth Road/New Park Access to Hudson River: Create a new entrance road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing corridors could be used. Old powerline corridors exist. • Terrain is steep. • Sight distance on Corinth Road may be inadequate for safety. • Requires removal of trees and vegetation, earth moving and resurfacing.
4. Corinth Road/Brook Trail Trailhead and Parking: Construct a new parking area on park property in the vicinity of the Brook Trail Trailhead.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new access road could be constructed within park property. • Terrain is steep. • Sight distance may not be adequate. • Brook trail dead ends at the northern park boundary and the trail is not formalized.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 2</p> <p>The primary reason for developing an entrance/access at this location is the potential to reopen a boat launch site on the Hudson River and provide some space for informal picnics. There is no day use or launch facility on this side of the Hudson River in either the Sherman Island or Spier Falls Impoundments. Alternative 2 is preferable because it would use an existing road/corridor. However, this existing corridor is on property retained by National Grid. In order to use this corridor, a public access easement would have to be negotiated with National Grid. If Alternatives 2 is determined not to be feasible then the Status Quo alternative becomes the preferred alternative and no formal access will be provided.</p>	

Trail Activities

Category: Snowmobiling

Existing Conditions: Snowmobiling takes place in the Warren County Area primarily by local residents of the area. Trails have not been inventoried or designated for any particular activity. This activity at the current level of use is considered appropriate for this management area. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Endangered Species Unit has concerns about possible impacts from expanded snowmobile use to wintering Bald eagles using this section of the Hudson River. OPRHP has been working with DEC staff on monitoring eagle use within the Park.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowmobile use will continue on park property in an informal manner.
2. Designate and improve existing paths/routes to create a looped trail system for snowmobiles and provide appropriate parking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use is currently by local residents who ride into the park. • Trail opportunities are limited due to slope and access. • Currently no parking is available for snowmobile trailers. • Trails within the park do not connect to the statewide snowmobile system. • Trails in this management area connect to residential roads.
3. Expand and develop new routes for snowmobiling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently there are no connections to state funded snowmobile trails. • Limited opportunities for new trails due to steep slopes and access. • Will require tree and vegetation removal. • Potential impacts to wintering Bald eagles from expanded use.

Preferred Option: Alternative 2

Snowmobiling is a traditional use of this property and should be allowed to continue. However, the current trail network would be an isolated system from the statewide snowmobile trail system. Nonetheless, it is deemed appropriate to provide at least one trail route that supports snowmobiles within this management area. The preferred alternative provides the opportunity to establish snowmobile trails using the existing paths and routes. Creating a looped trail system using existing trails that “dead end” may require the construction of new trail segments to complete loops. The main route within the

management area is used as an access road and could easily support snowmobile use.	
Category: Biking (including Mountain Biking)	
Existing Conditions: Trails have not been inventoried or designated for any particular activity. This activity is considered appropriate for this Management Area.	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal use of existing trails will continue.
2. Designate and improve existing paths/routes to create a looped trail system for biking and provide appropriate parking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for linking to longer trails. • Trail opportunities are limited due to slope and access. • Currently no parking is available. • There is a facility near the park that provides a different type of mountain biking experience. • There is an opportunity to connect the park trails to this facility (via private property). • Trails in this management area connect to residential roads.
3. Develop routes for new biking trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for new trails may be limited due to steep slopes and access. • May require vegetation removal.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternative 2</p> <p>Biking and mountain biking are popular activities. The existing service road into this management area could serve as a bike path or trail. Spur trails and loop trails could be developed off of the main route to provide mountain bikers with a different experience. Alternative 2 focuses on using the existing network of paths and routes to establish a bike trail network. This alternative also recognizes that loops may be developed out of existing paths that “dead end”, which will ultimately lead to the construction of new trail segments.</p>	
Category: Hiking	
Existing Conditions: Trails have not been inventoried or designated for any particular activity. This activity is considered appropriate for this Management Area.	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal use of existing trails will continue.

<p>2. Designate and improve existing paths/routes to create a looped trail system for hiking and provide appropriate parking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail opportunities are limited due to access. • Currently no parking is available. • There are other trails in the area that connect to the park. • Trails in this management area connect to residential roads.
<p>3. Develop routes for new hiking trails.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for new trails may be limited due to steep slopes and access. • Will require tree and vegetation removal.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternative 2 The existing service road into this management area could serve as a pedestrian path or trail. Spur trails and loop trails could be developed off of the main route to provide hikers with a different experience. Alternative 2 focuses on using the existing network of paths and routes to establish a trail network. It also recognizes that loops may be developed out of existing paths that “dead end”, which will ultimately lead to the construction of new trail segments.</p>	
<p>Category: <u>Interpretive Trails</u></p> <p>Existing Conditions: Trails have not been inventoried or designated for any particular activity.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Options</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Considerations</p>
<p>1. Status Quo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No formal interpretation exists. • Trails will not be inventoried or designated as interpretive trails.
<p>2. Inventory and evaluate existing trails for interpretation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing trails were not designed to provide an interpretive trail experience. • Access/parking is difficult and limited. • Requires signage. • Other opportunities for this activity exist elsewhere in the park. • Guided programs are currently conducted by park staff in this management area. (See Interpretation tables.)

<p>3. Designate and improve existing paths/routes to create a looped trail system for interpretation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing trails were not designed to provide an interpretive trail experience. • Access/parking is difficult and limited. • Requires signage. • Other opportunities for this activity exist elsewhere in the park. • Guided programs are currently conducted by park staff in this management area. (See Interpretation tables.)
<p>4. Develop routes for new interpretation trails.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for new trails may be limited due to steep slopes and access. • Will require tree and vegetation removal. • Access/parking is difficult and limited. • Requires signage. • Other opportunities for this activity exist elsewhere in the park. • Guided programs are currently conducted by park staff in this management area. (See Interpretation tables.)
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo While there are many themes on which to focus an interpretive trail, the expected level of use, the types of uses, and the character of the area do not warrant the development of this type of trail. It is felt that current interpretation needs can be met through current and proposed interpretation programming which is discussed later. Therefore, the Status Quo alternative is preferred.</p>	
<p>Category: Equestrian</p> <p>Existing Conditions: Trails have not been inventoried or designated for any particular activity. Some trails are currently used by local riders.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Options</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Considerations</p>
<p>1. Status Quo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equestrian use will continue in an informal manner.
<p>2. Designate and improve existing paths/routes to create a looped trails system for equestrians and provide parking for trailers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing trails are being used by horses. • Use is by local residents who ride into the park. • May not be attractive as a destination for riders who come from further away.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no trails for this activity that connect to the park.
3. Develop routes for new equestrian trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for new trails are limited due to steep slopes and access. • Requires tree and vegetation removal.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternative 2 Local equestrians currently access the trails in this management area by riding their horses into the park. It is recognized that there may not be many opportunities to increase the equestrian trail network within this management area due to slope and access restraints. However, it is deemed necessary to provide at least one trail route that supports horses within this management area. The preferred alternative provides the opportunity to establish equestrian trails using the existing paths and routes. The main route within the management area is used as an access road and could easily support equestrian use. A looped trail system is preferred by most equestrians. This alternative recognizes that loops may be developed out of existing paths/routes that “dead end” which will ultimately lead to the construction of new trail segments. A parking area will be provided in the Hawk Road area (see Access alternatives) to provide formal access to the park and space for horse and snowmobile trailers. Those equestrians that would bring a trailer could use the proposed parking area but there would be no other support facilities for equestrians offered at this entrance.</p>	
<p>Category: Cross-Country Skiing</p> <p>Existing Conditions: Trails have not been inventoried or designated for any particular activity. This activity is considered appropriate for this Management Area.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use will continue in an informal manner.
2. Permit cross-country skiing on a designated multiple use looped trail system. Cross- country skiing will be permitted on trails used by other winter users such as snowmobiles, and snowshoers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides an opportunity for cross-country skiing. • Trails will not be groomed for this activity.
3. Develop routes for new cross-country skiing trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for new trails are limited due to steep slopes and access. • New trails may require the removal of trees and vegetation.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternative 2 Trails will not be specifically designated or designed for cross-country skiing within this management area. Cross-country skiing will, however, be permitted on the trail system. The trail network will consist of a main trail route with short spur or loop trails extending from it. Cross-country skiing will be permitted on all trails that meet standards appropriate for the activity. For instance, if a trail is designated for hiking but contains steep slopes this trail may not be recommended for cross-country skiing. Trails will be opened as conditions permit.</p>	

Category: Snowshoeing	
Existing Conditions: Trails have not been inventoried or designated for any particular activity. This activity is considered appropriate for this Management Area.	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use will continue in an informal manner.
2. Permit snowshoeing on a designated multiple use looped trail system. Snowshoeing will be permitted on trails used by other winter users such as snowmobiles, and cross-country skiers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides an opportunity for snowshoeing. • Trails will not be groomed.
3. Develop routes for new snowshoeing trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for new trails are limited due to steep slopes and access. • New trails require the removal of trees and vegetation.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternative 2 Snowshoeing routes will be on a designated trail system within the management area. Trails will not be specifically designated or constructed for snowshoeing. In general, all trails that permit foot traffic can be used for snowshoeing in the winter season. There are no grade or slope restrictions for snowshoers. Therefore, as trail conditions permit, all designated trails within this management area will be available for snowshoeing.</p>	
Category: Trails Plan	
Existing Conditions: Trails have not been inventoried or designated for any particular use. Trail use(s) is considered to be appropriate for this management area.	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail use will continue in an informal manner.
2. Develop a trails plan to expand the trail system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires further evaluation of existing trails. • Requires further evaluation of existing uses and levels of use. • Will provide direction for the introduction of new uses, formalization of existing uses and the designation of trails for specific uses. • Provides the opportunity to address access for the mobility impaired.

Preferred Option: Alternative 2

The trail activity alternatives for this area constitute an interim trails plan that will allow improvements to the existing routes. Further evaluation of trails will lead to the development of a trails plan that will look at specific trail routes and determine appropriate uses. The master plan alternatives will be implemented and existing uses will continue until such time as a trails plan can be developed for this management area. The trails plan will also address accessibility issues for these trails.

Birding/Wildlife Observation

Existing Conditions: The large expanse of forest and the waterbodies within the park provide habitat for a high diversity of bird species and an abundance of wildlife. This type of activity is usually secondary to other primary activities such as hiking, boating or canoeing. No viewing platforms exist within the park; however, open areas and scenic overlooks provide an opportunity to view birds and wildlife.

Within this management area no formal trails have been designated nor is there a formalized access point for distribution of literature. Birding and wildlife observation is conducted by patrons who live close to the park property and use abandoned roads or trails to access the park.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bird and wildlife viewing will continue to take place.
2. Provide information at parking areas via trailhead kiosks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See Interpretive Programs Alternatives.• See Access Alternatives.• See Trail Activity Alternatives.

Preferred Option: Alternative 2

As mentioned in the existing conditions statement, this activity is often secondary to other primary activities, although there are individuals who visit parks and use trails to specifically view birds and wildlife. Most of the facility and program needs of bird and wildlife viewers can be met through other activity categories (See Interpretive Programs, Access and Trail Activity Alternatives).

Scenic Areas and Vistas

Existing Conditions: The Hudson River and the large expanse of surrounding forest are considered scenic areas. These areas can be viewed from trails that parallel the river. Overlooks and scenic vista locations along the river have not been identified. Initial investigations have however identified the proposed parking areas at Hawk Road (see Access Alternatives) as having scenic views.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scenic vistas already identified will be maintained.

2. Identify any additional scenic vista areas as part of the Trails Plan process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails have not been inventoried for any specific use. • See Trail Activity/Trails Plan Alternatives.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 2 During initial investigations a scenic view was identified in the area selected for a proposed parking area (see Access Alternatives). This area will be identified on park maps. Any additional areas will be identified and mapped during the trails planning process (see Trail Activity Alternatives).</p>	

Interpretive Programs

Existing Conditions: There are no interpretive facilities within this management area. Park Staff conduct guided hikes in the Warren Co. lands that include interpretive elements. The park offers a Nature Center in the vicinity of the Day Use Area within the Lake Recreation Area.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue guided hikes that include interpretive elements conducted by Park staff.
2. Develop brochures and guides for wildlife/bird observation, nature and historical interpretation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires a location to distribute this material. • Distribution could be accomplished through a kiosk or trailhead register.
3. Develop kiosks and informational panels to place at trailheads and parking areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to vandalism. • Informational panels can be used to distribute information. • Reduces clutter and litter from paper brochures and maps.

Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 3
The Status Quo Alternative provides for continuation of Park Staff guided interpretive hikes throughout the management area. Alternative 3 uses kiosks and informational panels rather than paper brochures and guides to provide park visitors with interpretive information. Brochures and paper guides can contribute to litter and may present an unkempt appearance to the public. Informational panels can also be changed to present seasonally relevant information.

Camping and Cottages/Cabins

Category: Backpack/Primitive Camping

Existing Conditions: There are no camping facilities within this management area. A campground is offered in the Lake Recreation Area and water-accessed sites are available along the Hudson River shoreline as described in the Hudson River Corridor Management Area. The existing trail network has not been inventoried and therefore the potential to offer this type of camping in this Management Area has not been evaluated. Backpack/Primitive camping is considered an appropriate activity for this Management Area.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities of this type are not provided.
2. Identify any potential sites through the Trails Plan process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the Trails Planning Process acceptable sites for this type of camping may be found. The activity is considered appropriate for this Management Area.

Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 2
 At the present time this type of camping will not be offered even though the activity is considered appropriate. Alternative 2 provides the opportunity to evaluate the area for backpack/primitive camping. The Trails Plan will require a more site specific inventory and then backpack/primitive camping areas/sites can then be designated if any appropriate areas are located. The Status Quo will continue until the completion of the Trails Plan.

Category: Tents/Trailers and Cottages/Cabins

Existing Conditions: There are no camping facilities within this management area. The only campground area within the park is in the Lake Recreation Area. The Lake Recreation Area also offers a walk-in group camping area and one full-service cottage. Water-accessed campsites exist along the shoreline of the Hudson River.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide camping opportunities and experiences in other management areas.
2. Develop camping facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved camping does not fit with the character of the management area. These experiences are provided elsewhere in the park. There are operation and maintenance considerations. Would require the installation of utilities (water, septic, electric, etc.).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development is cost prohibitive. • Would require the removal of trees and vegetation. • Would require road construction and improvement. • Much of the terrain is not conducive to improved camping due to steep slopes and low areas with the potential to flood. • Water access camping is provided as discussed in the Hudson River Corridor Management Area. • DEC offers improved camping facilities near by. • It is an activity that does not have an expressed need for this area. (See Environmental Setting Chapter)
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Preferred Option: Status Quo
 This management area is separated from the main operation center of the park by the Hudson River. It takes 20 minutes to access it from the main park office/maintenance area using public roads. The only direct access to the management area from the main park is by boat from the Spier Falls or Sherman Island boat launches. Camping is provided in Warren County by DEC and other private operators in the area. The Status Quo alternative is preferred.

Hunting

Existing Conditions: Small and big game hunting is permitted in designated areas. DEC statewide hunting regulations apply. Safety zones are established around developed areas. In addition to a valid NYS Hunting license, a hunting permit must be obtained from the park office. Hunting seasons may be modified by the park, as may safety zones.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain hunting as a permitted activity on park lands.
2. Expand and modify no hunting/safety zones as new facilities are developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives park flexibility to modify safety zones as development phases are completed.

Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 2

Hunting is a traditional use of the property and will be continued within the rules and regulations of DEC and OPRHP. As facilities are developed, the modification of safety zones will be necessary to comply with State hunting laws and to insure the safety of park users. Safety zones are usually established around residential areas, road ways and, in the instance of a State Park, around areas with a high concentration of park users such as day use areas and campgrounds. Hunting seasons are modified by the Park in consultation with DEC to protect certain wildlife species when necessary. OPRHP will continue to work with the DEC to provide hunting opportunities within Moreau Lake State Park.

Picnicking

Existing Conditions: Picnicking primarily takes place within the day use area of the park located within the Lake Recreation Area. Currently there are no designated picnic areas within this management area.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue providing opportunities for picnicking in other areas of the park.
2. Develop a "formal" day use/picnic area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires restrooms, water and shelter.• These facilities are provided elsewhere in the park.• Development could be cost prohibitive.• Management and maintenance will be difficult due to distance from main park operations.• Requires the development of roads, parking areas and activity areas.• Requires the removal of trees and vegetation.
3. Provide picnic tables at appropriate locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tables may need to be secured to deter theft.• Tables are subject to vandalism.• Would be ideal for trail users to have tables to sit and rest or enjoy a meal.

Preferred Option: Alternative 3

The Status Quo alternative recognizes that picnic areas and group picnicking facilities are provided in other areas of the park. Providing for formal picnicking activity within this management area does not compliment the character of the area. Therefore, picnic tables placed at appropriate locations (Alternative 3) will preserve the character of the area while still providing a place for patrons to sit and rest, enjoy the surroundings or eat a meal.

Administration/Maintenance

Existing Conditions: No formal park entrance exists and there are no park structures that provide a "Park" presence on the property. Park Police patrol the area for security purposes. There is no staff assigned to "maintain" this area of the park.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park structures will not be provided. • Park Police will continue periodic patrols.
2. Provide a small storage structure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be subject to vandalism and break-ins. • Provides a space to store supplies. • Could be incorporated into a kiosk or interpretive structure. • There are no facilities planned that would require this structure.
3. Provide a contact station at entrances to the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are multiple entrances to the property. • The volume of use anticipated for this management area does not warrant a contact station. • Requires staff to man the booths. • It is not considered cost effective.
4. Establish partnerships with friends groups, local governments and/or non-profit organizations to assist with maintenance and security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists park in maintenance and security. • Provides more efficient service.
5. Provide appropriate signage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a means to communicate park rules and regulations for use of the park property. • May be subject to vandalism and theft.

Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternatives 4 and 5

The Status Quo is the preferred alternative due to the distance and virtual isolation of the area from the main operations center of the park. It is the intent to provide access to this area in a manner that requires very little active management. Alternatives 4 and 5 attempt to supplement security through the use of volunteers and friends groups and create some visibility for the park.

Palmertown Mountains Management Area

This management area consists of the park lands to the south of the Hudson River that contain a portion of the Palmertown Range. The northern boundary of this area roughly follows the upland side of Spier Falls Road as it parallels the Hudson River. The eastern boundary is the ridge line that runs north-south just east of the four private in-holdings. The southern and western boundaries follow the park’s legal boundary line meeting back at Spier Falls Road. This management area has very steep and rugged terrain around it’s perimeter that turns into gently rolling terrain once on the top of the range. The area has been logged in the past and the network of roads and trails form the base of the current trail network. The primary use of this area is trail use, such as hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Access	
<p>Existing Conditions: No formal park entrance exists. Access to this management area can be obtained via Spier Falls Road and from within the Lake Recreation Area. Three parking/trailhead areas have been identified through the Trails Plan for the Palmertown Mountain Area – these are the Spring Trail Trailhead, the Cottage Park Trail Trailhead and the Western Ridge Trail Trailhead. The Spring Trail Trailhead parking area is maintained by the county and is used by both park users and spring visitors. The area can accommodate five to six cars and is approximately 200 ft. from the trail entrance. The Telegraph Tree Trail has a parking area that receives very little use primarily because the trail is not well established and is very steep. The Cottage Park Trail trailhead is situated within a close distance of the parking area of the Sherman Island Boat Launch. There is a pull-off area with an access gate that can accommodate four or five cars just south of the trailhead on the mountain side of Spier Falls Road. Parking for another 10 cars is available at the Sherman Island boat launch area; however, trail users must cross Spier Falls Road to access the trail. The Western Ridge Trail trailhead is located off Spier Falls Road, east of the Sherman Island Boat launch. The parking area for this trailhead has been approved through the trails plan, but has not yet been constructed. In addition to these parking areas/trailheads, a few gated access roads are maintained for National Grid to access their power line corridors. These “pull-off” areas are used for parking by hunters and trail users; however, the gates cannot be blocked and access cannot be denied to National Grid.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain parking and access as it currently exists.
2. Place signs at the Park boundary as it crosses Spier Falls Road that state "Entering Moreau Lake State Park".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs let drivers know that the park exists on both sides of the road.
3. Develop certain “pull-off” parking areas into more formal parking lots.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many “pull-offs” have space constraints. Some “pull-offs” are located within the Hudson River Corridor Management Area and are addressed in that section.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Pull-offs” are used seasonally.
4. Spring Trail Trailhead: Widen an existing, gated access road at the entrance to the Spring Trail to add five parking spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cars currently have to back out of the existing parking area near the Spring onto Spier Falls Road. • Removes trail user vehicles from the Spring parking area provided by the County. • Trail users would no longer need to walk along Spier Falls Road to access the trail. • Creates a safer traffic entry situation (cars would not be backing out onto Spier Falls Road).
5. Cottage Park Trail Trailhead 1: Move the gate back to expand and establish parking for three to five cars (located on the mountain side of Spier Falls Road across from the Sherman Island Boat Launch).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is currently a gated access point for National Grid. • Would relieve some parking issues at the Sherman Island Boat Launch and reduce the number of patrons attempting to cross Spier Falls Road. • Could make the trail attractive to ATV use. • Due to the alignment of Spier Falls Road, sight distance may be an issue.
6. Cottage Park Trail Trailhead 2: Expand parking at the Sherman Island Boat Launch Parking Area for trail users. Request that the Town put courtesy “trail crossing” signs along Spier Falls Road. Coordinate with other boat launch improvements discussed in the Hudson River Corridor Management Area alternatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently enough space exists at the launch to accommodate up to 50 cars. • Hikers and other trail users must cross Spier Falls Road. The crossing is in a potentially dangerous location. • Sight distances may be inadequate to permit safe pedestrian crossing.
7. Western Ridge Trail Trailhead: Create and develop the trailhead parking area (entrance is along east west running segment of Spier Falls Road).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a parking lot/trailhead that is included as one of the negotiated power line crossings with National Grid. • This parking area is identified in the trails plan for this Management Area. • Conceptually this trailhead project has been approved through the Trail Plan.

8. Telegraph Tree Trailhead: Sign and mark the parking area/trailhead as the access to the Telegraph Tree Trail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to field checking of the trail. • The trail is currently undeveloped.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo, Alternatives 2, 4, 6 and 7</p> <p>The Status Quo alternative calls for maintaining access as it currently exists. This means that three trailheads, Spring Trail, Cottage Park Trail and Western Ridge Trail trailheads will be provided. Alternative 2 recommends placing signs at the park boundary along Spier Falls Road to indicate that drivers are “Entering Moreau Lake State Park”. This increases the Park’s identity in the community. Alternative 4 proposes to move the Spring Trail trailhead parking area from the County’s parking area for the Spring to the trail entrance. This proposal creates a park-administered 5-car parking area specifically for trail users. The parking area, which is provided by the County, is associated with the Spring and is primarily used by people collecting water. The park’s trailhead parking area design would also prevent cars from having to back out onto Spier Falls Road. Alternatives 6 and 7 reinforce preferred options and alternatives identified in other plans or elsewhere in this plan. For example, Alternative 6 correlates to preferred options for the Sherman Island Boat Launch site identified in the Hudson River Corridor Management Area activity tables. Alternative 6 adds one more layer to those preferred options by adding a request for “trail crossing” signs. Alternative 7, on the other hand, reinforces the proposal for the construction of the Western Ridge Trail Trailhead parking area that was approved in the Trails Plan for this management area.</p>	

Trail Activities	
<p>Category: Snowmobiling</p> <p>Existing Conditions: The park is not near any regional or statewide corridor trails open to the public. There are steep slopes in this area. Other areas within the park are being considered for this activity. This activity will not be considered for this management area.</p>	
<p>Category: Biking (including Mountain Biking)</p> <p>Existing Conditions: There are 15 miles of multiple use trails within this management area. The ridgelines and plateau provide a challenging biking experience. Trails are accessed via trailheads located along Spier Falls Road or from within the Lake Recreation Management Area. Tour bikes may use Spier Falls Road; however, there are no special accommodations (such as a bike lane) for cyclists.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail maintenance and improvements will continue.
2. Designate and improve appropriate paths/routes for use as biking trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all of the existing trails are appropriate for bicycling.
3. Develop routes for new biking trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires removal of vegetation. • May require acquisition of additional properties.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is potential to connect park trails to long distance regional trails.
4. Work with the County DPW, to continue to improve Spier Falls Road for bicycle use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoulders need to be expanded. • Route requires signage. • County would have to designate the bike route or consider it a “shared roadway”. • May involve substantial construction costs to create shoulders wide enough.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternatives 2 and 3</p> <p>The trails that currently exist are designated as multiple use trails. All of these trails may not be appropriate for biking due to excessively steep slopes and rugged terrain. The trails that are appropriate may not have been properly designed or need improvements to permit bicycle use. Touring cyclists may continue to use the shoulders on Spier Falls Road but no further improvements for bicycles will be made. Alternative 2 provides for designating trails appropriate for biking and making necessary improvements to those trails. Alternative 3 also recognizes that new trails or trails that have not been completed may expand and enhance the designated bike trail system. Additional land acquisitions and regional trail development could also expand the bicycle trail network within and beyond the park boundaries. New trails or trail segments that were not identified within the approved trails plan will require site specific environmental review.</p>	
<p>Category: Hiking</p> <p>Existing Conditions: There are 15 miles of multiple use trails within this management area. Trails are accessed from various trailheads along Spier Falls Road and from within the Lake Recreation Management Area.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail maintenance and improvements will continue.
2. Develop and designate new hiking trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May require acquisition of additional properties. • There is potential to connect park trails to long distance regional trails.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 2</p> <p>All trails within this management area are open to hiking. Hikers must share these trails with other user groups. Trails will be maintained and improved as necessary as described by the Status Quo alternative. Alternative 2 recognizes that certain acquisitions and long distance trails in the region may increase the hiking trail network within and extending beyond the park boundaries. New trails or trail segments that were not identified within the approved trails plan will require site specific environmental review.</p>	

Category: Interpretive Trails

Existing Conditions: There are 15 miles of multiple use trails within this management area. None of the trails are designated or signed interpretive trails. Staff conduct guided hikes through the area that contain interpretive elements (see also Interpretive Programs).

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trails will not be inventoried or designated as interpretive trails.• Staff conducted guided hikes will continue as described under Interpretive Programs.
2. Inventory and evaluate existing trails for interpretation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existing trails were not designed to provide an interpretive trail experience.• Access/parking is difficult and limited.• Requires signage.• Other opportunities for this activity exist elsewhere in the park.• Guided programs are currently conducted by park staff in this management area. (See Interpretive Programs Alternatives).
3. Designate and improve existing paths/routes as interpretive trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existing trails were not designed to provide an interpretive trail experience.• Access/parking is difficult and limited.• Requires signage.• Other opportunities for this activity exist elsewhere in the park.• Guided programs are currently conducted by park staff in this management area (See Interpretive Program Alternatives).
4. Develop routes for new trails for interpretation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities for new trails may be limited due to steep slopes and access.• Will require tree and vegetation removal.• Access/parking is difficult and limited.• Requires signage.• Other opportunities for this activity exist

	<p>elsewhere in the park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided programs are currently conducted by park staff in this management area (See Interpretive Programs Alternatives).
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo The Status Quo alternative recognizes that interpretive trails require more development than is appropriate for the character of the management area. The terrain is steep and ragged ascending the plateau. The trails were not initially designed as interpretive trails. Other opportunities to provide interpretive trails exist within other areas of the park. Park staff will continue to conduct guided interpretive hikes into the management area (see Interpretive Programs Alternatives). Therefore, the Status Quo alternative is the preferred option.</p>	
<p>Category: Equestrian</p> <p>Existing Conditions: There are 15 miles of multiple use trails within this management area. The terrain of the Palmertown Mountain area is rugged and equestrian use within the park has been focused on the more level trails of the Lake Recreation Area. Users are mostly local residents who ride into the park.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use will continue in an informal manner.
2. Designate and improve existing paths/routes that are appropriate for use as equestrian trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The terrain is rocky and slopes are excessive. • Opportunities to provide adequate equestrian access/parking to the management area are limited. • Activity is considered appropriate for the park. • No appropriate trails exist that provide access to existing trail system.
3. Develop routes for new equestrian trails and provide access and parking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The terrain is rocky and slopes are excessive. • Opportunities to provide adequate equestrian access/parking to the management area are limited. • Activity is considered appropriate for the park. • No appropriate trails exist that provide access to existing trail system. • Areas of potential acquisition do not improve access for equestrians.

<p>4. Do not permit equestrian use within this management area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The terrain is rocky and slopes are excessive. • Opportunities to provide adequate equestrian access/parking to the management area are limited. • Activity is considered appropriate for the park. • No appropriate trails exist that provide access to existing trail system. • Areas of potential acquisition do not improve access for equestrians. • Opportunities to provide this activity may exist elsewhere in the park.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternative 4 Although horses are not currently prohibited from using the Palmertown Mountain trails, many equestrians prefer not to attempt taking their horses up such rocky and steep trails. Alternative 4 recognizes that these trails are not appropriate for equestrian use and recommends that the use be directed to other areas of the park.</p>	
<p>Category: Cross-Country Skiing</p> <p>Existing Conditions: There are 15 miles of multiple use trails within this management area. Trails are accessed from various trailheads along Spier Falls Road and from within the Lake Recreation Management Area. Cross-country skiing is permitted on trails although none are groomed for such use. The 15 miles of trails in this management area are primarily on top of the Palmertown Mountain Range Plateau. The trails used to access the top of the plateau are very steep. While all the trails have been designated as multiple use trails, some trails may pose an extreme challenge or prove to be too dangerous for cross-country skiers to ascend or descend safely.</p>	
<p>Options</p>	<p>Considerations</p>
<p>1. Status Quo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail maintenance and improvements will continue. • Trails are not groomed.
<p>2. Develop and designate new cross-country ski trails. Trails will continue to be ungroomed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May require acquisition of additional properties. • There is potential to connect park trails to long distance regional trails
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 2 The Status Quo alternative provides for the continued use of the Palmertown Mountain trails and Alternative 2 provides for the improvement and expansion of the trail system through acquisition and the development of long distance regional trails. New trails or trail segments that were not identified within the approved trails plan will require site specific environmental review.</p>	

Category: Snowshoeing	
Existing Conditions: There are 15 miles of multiple use trails within this management area. Trails are accessed from various trailheads along Spier Falls Road and from within the Lake Recreation Management Area. Snowshoeing is permitted on trails.	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail maintenance and improvements will continue.
2. Develop and designate new snowshoe trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May require acquisition of additional properties. There is potential to connect park trails to long distance regional trails.
Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 2	
All trails within this management area are open to snowshoeing. Snowshoers must share these trails with other user groups. Trails will be maintained and improved as necessary as described by the Status Quo alternative. Alternative 2 recognizes that certain acquisitions and long distance trails in the region may increase the trail network within and extending beyond the park boundaries. New trails or trail segments that were not identified within the approved trails plan will require site specific environmental review.	

Birding/Wildlife Observation	
Existing Conditions: The large expanse of forest and the waterbodies within the park provide habitat for a high diversity of bird species and an abundance of wildlife. This type of activity is usually secondary to other primary activities such as hiking, boating or canoeing. No viewing platforms exist within the park; however, open areas and scenic overlooks provide an opportunity to view birds and wildlife. Within this management area trails have been marked and opened for use. Trailheads and parking are available. Ridge trails have many natural and maintained overlooks that provide not only scenic viewing opportunities but also opportunities for observing wildlife.	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birding and wildlife viewing will continue.
2. Maintain scenic overlook areas and provide brochures, check lists and informational panels about the birds and wildlife within the park. Use the Park Office, Nature Center and trailheads throughout the park to distribute this information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent with the character of the Management Area. Reduces intrusion of built features.
3. Place kiosks at trailheads that provide information on the birds and wildlife of the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less intrusive on the natural character of the park. Informational panels can be developed

	that can be used on the kiosks.
4. Create and place benches and, where appropriate, interpretive panels in strategic locations along all trails within this management area to provide resting areas and opportunities to view birds and wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not consistent with the character of this management area.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternatives 2 and 3</p> <p>Many individuals participate in bird watching and wildlife observation. This Park, as a whole, provides many opportunities for enthusiasts to observe a diverse population of bird and wildlife species. Many parks and natural areas provide boardwalks or viewing platforms for people to stop and encounter birds and wildlife. It is felt that these types of facilities are too intrusive on the natural character of the park and introduce too many built features. Alternative 2 identifies the natural scenic overlooks and the trails as facilities that provide opportunities to view birds and wildlife. Additionally, Alternative 2 recommends providing written materials regarding birds and wildlife within the Park. Alternative 3 recommends using kiosks and informational panels to distribute and present information about the park's birds and wildlife.</p>	

Scenic Areas and Vistas

Existing Conditions: The Hudson River and the large expanse of surrounding forest are considered scenic. These areas can be viewed from the ridge trail overlooks. Overlooks and scenic vista locations have been identified by the Trails Plan and on trail maps for this management area.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic overlooks will continue to be accessed via the ridge trails. • Scenic overlook areas will continue to be identified on maps.
2. Maintain scenic overlook areas and provide brochures and other literature about the scenic views. Use the Park Office, Nature Center and trailheads throughout the park to distribute this information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of scenic overlooks will require policing for trash. • Brochures can describe the subject of certain views as well as provide a bit of interpretive information.
3. Place kiosks at trailheads that provide information regarding the scenic areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panels on information regarding the scenic views along trails can be added to trailhead kiosks.
4. Create and place benches and, where appropriate, interpretive panels in strategic locations along all trails within this management area to provide resting areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not consistent with the character of this management area. • Requires an extensive signing plan.

and scenic viewing opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too many signs can be intrusive. • Maintenance of these areas would have to be more intensive and frequent. • The areas could become party spots or camping sites and fires could then pose a hazard.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 2</p> <p>The Status Quo alternative and Alternative 2 recognize the importance of maintaining the scenic vistas and their contributions to the interpretive values of the park. Alternative 2 recommends providing literature regarding the scenic vistas and overlooks and using the Park Office, Nature Center and trailheads to distribute information.</p>	

Interpretive Programs	
<p>Existing Conditions: There are no interpretive facilities within this management area. Park Staff conduct guided hikes that include interpretive elements.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue guided hikes that include interpretive elements conducted by Park staff.
2. Develop brochures and guides for interpreting such themes as wildlife, birds, ecology and history to be distributed at trailheads and parking areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guides and brochures are being developed for other passive activities such as birding/wildlife observation and scenic views.
3. Develop kiosks and signs to place strategically along trails and trail intersections, and parking lots.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too intrusive on the character of the Management area. • Difficult to maintain. • Subject to vandalism.
4. Develop partnerships with volunteer organizations to conduct guided hikes and interpretive programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplements park staff programs.
5. Install kiosks and informational panels at trailheads and parking areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralized location to make contact with trail users. • Provides a minimal park presence. • Formalizes parking areas. • A trail register could be placed on the kiosk to track use and provide information in case of emergencies.

Preferred Option: Status Quo, Alternatives 4 & 5

The Park currently conducts guided interpretive hikes through the management area. These hikes provide information regarding the natural and cultural features of the Park. The Status Quo alternative ensures that these programs will continue. Alternatives 4 and 5 supplement the guided hikes by providing alternative methods of distributing information. Brochures, printed guides, check lists and maps encourage self guided types of interpretation, but may also contribute to littering and an unkempt appearance at the trailhead. Trailhead kiosks provide orientation information and brief topic summaries to familiarize patrons with the area. Additional printed materials will be made available at the Park Office and Nature Center within the Lake Recreation Area. Partnerships with Friends groups and volunteer organizations can provide additional materials and guided hikes that supplement the Park's program.

Camping and Cottages/Cabins

Category: Tent/Trailer, Walk-in/Group Camping and Cottages/Cabins

Existing Conditions: There is no camping of this type within this area.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No camping facilities of this type will be provided within this Management Area.
2. Develop a campground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This type of camping is not compatible with the character of the Management Area.

Preferred Option: Status Quo

The Status Quo alternative is recommended because the physical characteristics of this management area are not conducive to the development of a campground, cabin/cottage colony or group camp facility. The terrain is rugged and steep, vehicular access is limited, and utilities such as water, sanitary systems and electricity are not available. Altering the landscape to provide this type of facility would detract from the scenic and natural quality of the management area. Camping facilities are offered in other areas of the park and within the region.

Category: Backpack/Primitive Camping

Existing Conditions: This type of camping is currently not permitted within the park. Camping must be within designated areas. There are no designated areas for backpack/primitive camping. However, this activity is considered appropriate for this management area.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Backpack/Primitive Camping is not permitted within the park.
2. Designate a limited number of sites, with or without lean-tos, along trails for camping while using the trails within the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sites would be intended for short transient stays.Sites would be available on a first-come,

	<p>first-served basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a risk of extended stays. • Pit privies may need to be provided. • There is no readily available potable water supply. • Considered consistent with the character of the park. • Lean-tos are a previously existing use on adjacent property. • A lean-to requires regularly scheduled maintenance. • Lean-to areas and sites will require policing for trash and vegetation damage. • Consider partnering with DEC’s “Adopt-a-lean-to” program or model a program after it for Moreau Lake State Park. • Overnight parking in the Lake Recreation Management Area (day use area) is an operational issue.
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Preferred Option: Alternative 2
 Primitive campsites may consist of a cleared area to pitch a tent and may have a fire ring. Primitive camping fits with the character of this management area and does not detract from its natural and rugged character. Alternative 2 will provide the opportunity to designate areas for primitive camping. These sites may or may not have a lean-to available. These sites would be available on a first-come, first-served basis and are intended for transient trail users. Permits for overnight parking in trailhead lots will be issued from the Park Office.

Hunting

Existing Conditions: Small and big game hunting is permitted in designated areas. DEC statewide hunting regulations apply. Safety zones are established around developed areas. In addition to a valid NYS Hunting license, a hunting permit must be obtained from the park. Hunting seasons may be modified by the park, as may safety zones. As facilities are developed safety zones may need to be modified. Hunting seasons are modified by the park in consultation with DEC to protect certain wildlife species when necessary.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting is a permitted activity on park lands. • Current access will be maintained.

Preferred Option: Status Quo

No changes to the Park’s hunting policy are proposed. Hunting will continue to be permitted in the park according to NYS DEC and OPRHP hunting regulations. The Park and OPRHP will continue to work with DEC to provide hunting. Current levels of access to the area are sufficient and will be maintained.

Fishing

Existing Conditions: A small lake, Lake Ann, is located in the southwest corner of the management area. Currently, the lake is not accessible from park trails. The lake is acidic and is classified as a bog lake.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lake is not accessible from park trails.

Preferred Option: Status Quo

As the trail system currently exists and is proposed, public access to the lake is not possible. The lake is classified as a bog lake and the water is acidic which may not support any fish.

Swimming

Existing Conditions: A small lake, Lake Ann, is located in the southwest corner of the park. Currently, the lake is not accessible from park trails. The lake is acidic and is classified as a bog lake. The shoreline is rimmed with a floating mat of vegetation.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lake is not accessible from park trails.

Preferred Option: Status Quo

As the trail system currently exists and is proposed, public access to the lake is not possible. Swimming would not be available.

Picnicking

Existing Conditions: Currently there are no designated picnic areas within this management area.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal picnicking will continue.

2. Develop a "formal" day use/picnic area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The terrain is rocky and slopes are excessive. • Opportunities to provide adequate access/parking to the management area are limited. • Areas of potential acquisition do not improve access. • Opportunities to provide this activity exist elsewhere in the park.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo The Status Quo attempts to maintain the natural and rugged character of this management area. Picnics in this area usually consist of trail users stopping at an overlook or trail intersection to have a snack, rest, or eat a meal. Providing facilities such as picnic tables, pavilions, water, sanitary or electric service would not fit with the character of the park. Also, vehicular access to the area is limited. Picnic areas exist in other areas of the park.</p>	

Boating	
<p>Existing Conditions: The only waterbody within this management area is Lake Ann. It is located in the southwest corner of the park and is currently not accessible from park trails. The lake is acidic and is classified as a bog lake. The shoreline is rimmed with a floating mat of vegetation.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lake is not accessible from park trails.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo There is no public access to this lake that would be conducive to boating activity or launching. The lake is currently not accessible from park trails.</p>	

Administration/Maintenance	
<p>Existing Conditions: No formal park entrance exists and there are no park structures that provide a "Park" presence on the property. Park Police patrol the area and trailhead parking areas for security purposes. There is no staff assigned to "maintain" this area of the park. Partnerships with trail user groups to maintain trails and parking areas are being developed.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue current maintenance and administration procedures.

<p>2. Provide a satellite maintenance building.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered not necessary since park staff can access the management area from within the Lake Recreation Area Management Area. • Administrative access is readily available along Spier Falls Road. • Partnerships with trail users and user groups exist. These groups provide volunteers that maintain trails and trailheads.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo</p> <p>The types and levels of use anticipated for this area do not warrant built facilities that would require regular or frequent maintenance. Partnerships with friends and volunteer groups will assist park management in policing for trash and maintaining a neat appearance at trailheads. Park Police can provide periodic security patrols. Trail maintenance can be coordinated by Park Staff from the Lake Recreation Area when needed. Therefore, the Status Quo alternative is preferred.</p>	

Lake Recreation Management Area

The Lake Recreation Management Area consists of the park land that is to the east of the Turkey Path Trail (or the ridgeline that separates the low lands surrounding Moreau Lake and the high plateau of the Palmertown Mountain Range). The Management Area boundary then follows the park boundary along Spier Falls Road to the north and Mountain Road and Route 9 to the east and a jagged line that heads northwest paralleling the Red Oak Ridge Trail. This Management Area is the oldest part of the park, which was established and opened to the public in 1968, and includes the developed camping and day use facilities of the park. This area serves as the main operations center for the park, providing the formal park entrance and housing the Park Office and Maintenance Facility.

Access/Park Entrance	
<p>Existing Conditions: The main entrance to the park is off Old Saratoga Road accessed from State Route 9 via exit 17 off I-87 (the Northway). During peak use times the park reaches its capacity and the entrance is closed causing waiting patron vehicles to "stack up" north of the park entrance in the southwest bound traffic lane of Old Saratoga Road. The stacking occurs because patrons are willing to wait until someone leaves the park in order to obtain entry. This problem currently lasts for about a hour and then disipates. Demand on the park will likely increase based on local growth which will further aggravate the problem. With more development outside the park, conflicts between stacked vehicles and through traffic may be compounded and escalate from subsequent increased use of Old Saratoga Road. The facilities at the park entrance include two entrance lanes with contact stations, an exit lane, the park office building and a small parking lot for four to five cars. The second entrance lane is opened when demand warrants.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacking occurs when day use is full. • Entrance from Rt. 9 is not readily visible. • Maintains existing operation practices. • Registered campers still have rights to enter the park but are often stuck in the stacking lanes.

<p>2. Maintain existing entrance configuration and make operational changes. (Obtaining and operating a second reservation terminal.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered campers still have rights to enter the park but are often stuck in the stacking lanes. • Stacking on Old Saratoga Road is not resolved. • A second reservation terminal would speed up camper registration. • There are network issues with updating the reservation database (often results in sites being shown as open when they have just been occupied.)
<p>3. Reduce speed limit on Old Saratoga Road (within park boundaries) to 30 mph, place signs identifying the park at the park boundaries on Old Saratoga Road, and improve signing on Route 9.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates a “decompression zone” on the approach to the park entrance. • Creates the feeling of entering the park. • Improves visibility. • Improves safety for entrance, patrons, bicycles and pedestrians on Old Saratoga Road. • Creates a better identity for the park.
<p>4. Redesign existing entrance through maintenance area– Using existing space, redesign the entrance to extend the entrance road, expand patron parking for camper registration and improve traffic flow on Old Saratoga Road. Make use of the maintenance area and consider relocating the maintenance complex (possibly on the Rt. 9 lands.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space is limited. • Requires significant removal of trees and vegetation. • Requires redesign or relocation of Maintenance Area. • Substantial utility relocation (septic, wells, electric, etc.). • Maintenance road would have to be widened and improved. • Would create internal traffic flow problems. • Could provide separation of day users and campers. • Provides opportunity to increase stacking space.
<p>5. Improve Existing Entrance - Widen Old Saratoga Rd. north of the Park entrance by adding a traffic lane to the east of the northeast bound traffic lane (Route 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides winter parking. • Stacked vehicles will not block through

<p>Property side). The current southwest bound lane will be used as the stacking lane/right turn lane. Construct a new parking area between the Park Office and the Recycling Building for camper registration.</p>	<p>traffic on Old Saratoga Road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively inexpensive. • Minor vegetation clearing is required. • Does not facilitate development/operation of Route 9 park lands. • Widening Old Saratoga Rd. to the east would reduce impacts on Loop A, but would be more expensive. • Doesn't provide for separation of day users and campers.
<p>6. South Road Intersection - Construct a new entrance road beginning at the intersection of South Rd and Old Saratoga Rd. New road would descend the hillside for approx. 1100 ft, meeting the existing park road at the southeast corner of the lake, where a new contact station would be constructed. Day use traffic would proceed left, while campground traffic would proceed right. Old Saratoga Road would remain open. Existing entrance would be closed and space reused.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Saratoga Rd. remains open. • Sufficient stacking space. • Provides opportunity to develop Rt. 9 lands. • Impact on South Rd. residents. • Environmental impact (cut trees, grading, etc.). • Existing park office space can be used for other programs with little or no impact on day use or campers. • Has the potential to provide a better functioning park office. • Construction would not interfere with current operations. • Existing entrance could be maintained for winter use.

<p>7. South Road Intersection - Same as above, but new South Road entrance would be for day use only, while the existing entrance would become the campground entrance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential driver confusion. • Old Saratoga Road remains open. • Personnel/operational issues. • Not conducive to developing Rt. 9 lands. • Sufficient stacking. • Impact on South Road residents. • Environmental impacts (cut trees, grading, etc.). • Further reduces stacking on Old Saratoga Road. • Separates the two uses. • Existing entrance can be used as a winter entrance. • Day use contact station could be just a booth and park office can remain where it is.
<p>8. Abandon Old Saratoga Road - Old Saratoga Rd. would be abandoned from South Rd. to the existing park entrance. From the intersection of Old Saratoga Rd. and Mountain Rd. to the existing park entrance would become park road. The intersection of Mountain Road and Old Saratoga Road would become the new park entrance. The contact station would be located along Old Saratoga Rd. to take advantage of the land between Old Saratoga Road and Rt. 9. A new parking area will be constructed between the Park Office and the recycling area (see also Camping/Cottages – third Car/Overflow Parking Alternatives).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively inexpensive. • Low environmental impact. • Conducive to the development of Rt. 9 lands. • May be politically unfeasible. • Impacts to local residents (through traffic rerouted). • Requires town approval and action. • Requires consultation with emergency service organizations. • Unifies the park by improving internal traffic flow. • More roadway to maintain. • Creates a “decompression zone” at the entrance. • Could retain the abandoned section of road for use as a bike path. • A parking area provides an area for campers to park while registering at the

	Park Office and keeps traffic flowing through the park. This area can also be used for alternative parking for winter activities.
9. Abandon Old Saratoga Road - Similar to Alternative 8, but would relocate a new segment of Old Saratoga Rd. from the South Rd. intersection to Rt. 9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More expensive. • Rerouting of through traffic. • Impact on South Road residents. • Environmental impact (cut trees, grading, etc.) • Loss of use of some parkland. • Bypass (new segment of road) would occupy the flat developable land on the Route 9 property. • Could retain the abandoned section of road for use as a bike path.
10. Seasonal Closure of Old Saratoga Road - Old Saratoga Road would be closed to through traffic during peak operating season (June – Labor Day).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local traffic would still require an alternate route. • Seasonal impacts on South Road residents. • Requires an agreement with the town. • Requires consultation with emergency service organizations.
11. New Route 9 Entrance - Construct a new entrance road from the existing entrance to Route 9. Close Old Saratoga Road (from Mountain Road intersection to South Road intersection). Contact Station would remain in current location. A left-turn lane could be added to the center of Rt. 9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better visibility of the park from Rt. 9. • Coordination with DOT is required. • Sight distance issues. • Environmental Impacts (tree clearing, grading, etc.). • Not conducive to developing Rt. 9 lands. • Local and truck traffic would have to be rerouted. • Requires an agreement with the town. • Requires consultation with emergency service organizations. • Requires a traffic study to be performed on Route 9.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exiting to Rt. 9 and I-87 is improved. • Stacking space would be increased on park roads.
<p>12. New Route 9 Entrance - Same as Alternative 11, but a new Contact Station would be constructed between Old Saratoga Road and Route 9.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rt. 9 land may be developed for recreation purposes. • Abandonment of Old Saratoga Road is still required which requires an agreement with the town and consultation with emergency service organizations. • Old Saratoga Road would become a park road. • Improves internal traffic flow in the park. • Conducive to development and provides access to facilities within the Route 9 lands.
<p>13. Mountain Road Intersection - Existing entrance would remain in place and used for day use admittance. A new entrance for campground use only would be constructed at the intersection of Old Saratoga Road and Mountain Road and meet the existing campground road at the eastern end of the lake (at the duck's foot), approx. 350 ft long. Construct new campground contact station. Old Saratoga Road would remain open.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separates slower campground traffic from the day use entrance. • Existing intersection has poor geometry. • Personnel/operational issues. • Environmental impact (cut trees, grading, etc.). • Requires the development of a larger parking area. • Intersection alignment issues at Mountain Road. • Campers enter directly into the campground. • Too much separation of park uses. • Potential to deal with camper registrations at two locations.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternatives 5 and 3. As mentioned in the Existing Conditions statement, the park's entrance design does not provide for adequate vehicle stacking space or a "decompression zone" that introduces the park environment to the patron. The 13 alternatives in this table explore operational changes, signage and numerous road configurations. The Status Quo alternative was rejected because it would not address stacking problems, the short "decompression zone" or the congestion on Old Saratoga Road.</p>	

The preferred option is Alternative 5. Under this option, Old Saratoga Road is widened to the southeast by adding a traffic lane to the east of the northeast bound lane (Route 9 property side) and then using the current southwest bound traffic lane as the stacking/right turn lane. This will reduce, but may not eliminate, the stacking of cars and interference with through traffic on Old Saratoga Road. A new parking area would be constructed between the Park Office and the Recycling Building for camper registration.

This represents a change from the preferred option (#8 – closure of Old Saratoga Road) that was identified in the draft plan. There were major concerns expressed during the public review period regarding implementation of this alternative including rerouting local traffic and securing Old Saratoga Road for park purposes. Alternative 8 recommended that jurisdiction of Old Saratoga Road be turned over to OPRHP. Local traffic would then need to be rerouted to Rt. 9 via South Road. This alternative addresses the traffic congestion problems on Old Saratoga Road by redirecting local and through traffic to other roads. Old Saratoga Road becomes a park road (from Mountain Road to the existing park entrance) and serves as a “decompression zone” and stacking area for park patron vehicles. From the existing park entrance to South Road, Old Saratoga Road would be closed and converted to a bike path or a park road. Local traffic impacts include altering school bus routes, emergency service vehicle routes and directing local residents to Rt. 9 using alternative routes.

The preferred alternative (#5) would be combined with Alternative 3 which enhances signage to create a more “park-like” atmosphere when approaching the park entrance. The signage plan would identify when roads enter park land and reduce the speed limit upon approaching the park entrance.

Trail Activities

Category: Biking (including Mountain Biking)

Existing Conditions: There are 5.8 miles of multiple use trails within this management area. All park roads are used by bicycles. Bikers use the nature trail as an off road option to get to the beach or to complete a circuit around the lake. Biking activity in this area is usually family biking and campers traveling from the beach to their camp site. Access to the Palmertown Mountain Trails can be obtained through the day use area.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike-automobile accidents occur occasionally on park roads particularly in the camping loops. • Park roads are narrow, especially in the camping loops, and drivers aren't watching for cyclists on the side of the road.

2. Stripe bike lanes on park roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implies a wider road. • Not enough space for a bike lane on many roads. • Park roads do not have shoulders.
3. Designate and develop new biking trails as a result of multiple use trail development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May turn existing trails into multi-use trails. • Removes some bike traffic from park roads.
4. Improve bike parking areas and bike racks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a cleaner, more organized appearance. • May reduce bicycle theft.
5. Improve safety, education and enforcement including signage and brochures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post signs in camping loops that say "caution watch for bicycles". • Some riders aren't wearing helmets. Children 13 years and younger are required to wear bicycle helmets. • Hold bike programs to educate young bike riders. • Improve enforcement of bicycle rules and laws.
6. Develop a road separated bike path or paths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could use existing trails or provide the opportunity to develop new trails, especially in the Rt. 9 property. • Removes bicycle traffic from roadways.
7. Cooperate with local governments in developing connections to regional bicycle routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the opportunity for bicyclists to enter the park from another direction. • Could turn the park into a cycling destination point.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternatives 3-7</p> <p>Alternatives 3 – 7 provide a comprehensive program for improving the bicycling conditions within the park. Alternative 3 recognizes that the existing trails are used by bicycles but are not designated or designed to accommodate the use. Improvements to the trails may include surface stabilization, signing and in some areas widening the treadway. This alternative was chosen over Alternative 2 because the separation of bicycles and motor vehicles is more pronounced. Many of the cycling accidents within the park occur along the narrow roadways of the camping area. Alternatives 3 and 6 support separating bikes from the roadways through the use of bike paths and multiple use trails. Alternative 6 recognizes that in order to completely separate bikes from roadways, new bike path segments may need to be created. This is especially true along the campground trunk road where there currently is no</p>	

separated path. Alternative 4 recommends improving bicycle storage areas, particularly within the day use areas. Bike theft can be a problem on peak day use times. Often, bikes are left unlocked leaning on trees or on the over full bike racks. Providing more racks and lockup areas will improve the appearance of the day use area and could reduce theft. Alternative 5 ties all the alternatives together by improving bicycle use education, safety and enforcement. This alternative recommends providing signage and brochures explaining proper bicycle use within the park and using volunteers or law enforcement to conduct programs regarding bicycle safety. Alternative 7 refers to local initiatives to create a bike route through the region. The park will continue to work with local interest groups and governments to provide a safe bike route to and through the park.

Category: Hiking

Existing Conditions: There are 5.8 miles of multiple use trails within this management area. Hiking trails in this area focus on circumnavigating the lake and its associated ponds. Connecting trails, beginning in the day use area, lead up to the more remote trails of the Palmertown Mountains. Hiking trails in the Recreation Area are marked and maintained.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new trails will be developed. • Existing trails will continue to be maintained.
2. Develop trails in the property between Rt. 9 and Old Saratoga Road that connect to other trails in the Lake Recreation Area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides an extended hiking opportunity. • Causes hikers to cross Old Saratoga Road. • Property isn't very large and wouldn't increase hiking opportunities significantly. • No regional trails connect to the park from this direction.
3. Develop new hiking trails as a result of multiple-use trail development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May turn existing trails into multi-use trails. • Creates potential for the development of longer loop trails. • Increases the day hiking opportunities within the area. • Enhances patron movement and transportation routes to various areas of the Lake Recreation Area.

Preferred Option: Alternative 3

Hiking is permitted on all of the trails within this management area, including the proposed new segments of bike path described in the biking alternatives table. Hikers must share the trails with other user groups because horses and bicycles may also use these trails. Alternative 2 suggests that the vacant property between Rt. 9 and Old Saratoga Road be used for new hiking trails. It was determined that new hiking trails in this section of the park would not significantly increase the hiking opportunities within the park. The improvements to the trail network will be focused in the campground and day use area. As a result of the development of new multi-use trails, hiking opportunities within the Lake Recreation Area will be improved and enhanced.

Category: Interpretive Trails

Existing Conditions: There are 5.8 miles of multiple use trails within this management area. A self guided interpretive trail (the Nature Trail) exists within this management area that has marked stations for interpretation along its course. The trail is used by groups and individuals, bicycles and horses.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Nature Trail will be maintained in its current condition.• It will not be considered accessible.
2. Improve interpretive material and signage along the designated Nature Trail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trail signs and markers may need to be updated and/or replaced.• Trail brochures should be matched to the trail markers and interpretive stations.
3. Improve the trail conditions to make it accessible to persons with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The current surface of the trail is not adequate for access. Firming of the trail tread is required.

Preferred Option: Alternatives 2 and 3

Consistent with the alternatives for biking and hiking, Alternatives 2 and 3 recommend improvements to the Nature Trail. In this category improvements focus on the trail signs/markers that identify interpretation stations along the trail. Also providing corresponding literature and brochures to assist self guided interpretation will be improved and updated according to the interpretation stations. Guided walks along the Nature Trail will still be offered especially for group programs (schools, churches, scouts, etc.). Alternative 3 ensures that the trail improvements are consistent with design guidelines recommended under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Category: Equestrian

Existing Conditions: There are 5.8 miles of multiple use trails within this management area. Equestrian use is permitted on these trails. Trails are not specifically designed or designated for equestrian use and parking for horse trailers is not specifically provided. Parking for trailers is allowed during off-peak use time at the day use parking area. Trails are shared with other users such as hikers and bikers. Most riders tend to stay on trails that are relatively level and don't venture into the more remote areas of the Palmertown Mountains. No support facilities are provided such as tie-ups and mounting platforms. Equestrians must show proof that their horse has been vaccinated for Coggins in order to ride in the park.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courtesy/yield signs are not posted on trails used by hikers, bikers and equestrians.• Not all trails used by equestrians are known or mapped.• Equestrian users are mostly local and ride into the park rather than trailer their horses to the park.
2. Develop a separate trails system for equestrians on the park land between Rt. 9 and Old Saratoga Road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equestrian related amenities could be provided for in this area.• Not enough trail mileage could be created to turn the park into an equestrian destination.
3. Specifically designate trails from the inventory of existing trails for equestrian use. Consider designation of the Nature Trail and the Lakeside Trail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires proper signing and enforcement of trail uses.• The Nature Trail and Lakeside Trail are traditionally used by equestrians.• Trail etiquette and “rules of the road” need to be explained/taught to all trail users.• This will be a shared use trail.
4. Institute a permit system for equestrian use within the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensures horses have their Coggins vaccination.• Provides a means to control and track equestrian use of the park.
5. Do not permit equestrian use of trails in this management area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eliminates a traditional use of the area.

Preferred Option: Alternatives 3 and 4
Alternative 3 recommends designating specific trails for equestrian use. This allows the park to direct use to trails appropriate for horses. Many of the wider level trails can accommodate

this use with minor treadway improvements. Designating appropriate trails also prevents equestrians from taking their horses on trails that could prove dangerous to the animal and rider. The “Existing Conditions” statement recognizes that much of the equestrian use is by local riders who enter the park on horseback. However, some equestrians arrive by trailer and park in the day use area lot. This practice will be continued. The alternatives for camping and access recommend providing an additional lot nearer to the entrance of the park. Equestrian trailers may be parked there if space permits. An equine permit system, identified in Alternative 4, will be instituted at the park to ensure that horses have been inoculated for Coggins and to help track equestrian use of the park.

Category: Snowmobiling

Existing Conditions: There are 5.8 miles of multiple use trails within this management area. However, snowmobiles are not permitted in this area of the park. There are no trails designated for this activity within this management area.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter use is well established. • Use is by snowshoers and Cross-country skiers. • There are no designated trails for snowmobiling.
2. Open trails and unplowed roads to snowmobiles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail miles are limited. • No winter parking is available. • There are trails near by that accommodate this use.

Preferred Option: Status Quo
 The Lake Recreation Area is where the more intensively developed areas are within the park. In the winter, low impact activities and programs are held within the park. The lake is used for ice fishing and the trails are used by cross-country skiers and snowshoers. These have been the traditional uses of the park during the winter months. An evaluation of the park and its surrounding area shows that there are no trails designated for snowmobiles within the park and no linkages to the statewide snowmobile trail system.

Category: Cross-country Skiing

Existing Conditions: There are 5.8 miles of multiple use trails within this management area. All trails within the recreation area, including the connectors to the Palmertown Mountain Area trails, are open to cross-country skiing in the winter. Trails are not groomed. Some unplowed roads are also used for cross-country skiing. Most trails are used by both cross-country skiers and snowshoers. Users create parallel tracks on the same trail.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-country skiing will continue on ungroomed park roads and trails.

2. Designate and maintain trails solely for use by cross-country skiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separates this use from other winter uses. • Decreases opportunities for other winter users.
3. Groom cross-country ski trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the purchase of equipment and allocation of staff time.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo Cross-country skiing is a well established use within this management area. Cross-country skiers are aware that they have to share trails with snowshoers and the two user groups create parallel tracks on the same trails. Cross-country skiers can use all trails that are used by hikers or walkers in the summer time. Some trails may be more challenging than others particularly those that lead into the Palmertown Mountains. The status quo alternative is preferred because it maintains the current level of service for cross-country skiers.</p>	
<p>Category: Snowshoeing</p> <p>Existing Conditions: There are 5.8 miles of multiple use trails within this management area. All trails within the recreation area, including the connectors to the Palmertown Mountain Area trails, are open to snowshoeing in the winter. Unplowed roads are also used for snowshoe trails. Most trails are used by both snowshoers and cross-country skiers. Users create parallel tracks on the same trail.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowshoe use of trails will continue on ungroomed trails.
2. Designate and maintain trails solely for use by snowshoers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separates this use from other winter uses. • Decreases opportunities for other winter users.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo Snowshoeing is a popular activity within the park. The Park Staff also conduct guided interpretive snowshoe hikes (See Interpretive Programs alternatives). Snowshoers are aware that they must share the trails with cross-country skiers and often create their own tracks parallel to cross-country ski tracks. All trails that are open to hiking in the summer seasons are open to snowshoeing in the winter. Some trails, such as those that lead to the Palmertown Mountains, provide a more challenging snowshoeing experience. The status quo alternative is preferred because it maintains the current level of service for snowshoers.</p>	

Birding/Wildlife Observation

Existing Conditions: The large expanse of forest and the waterbodies within the park provide habitat for a high diversity of bird species and an abundance of wildlife. Trails provide access and opportunities for bird and wildlife observation. There are interpretive trails for more directed observation activities. A bird check list has been prepared for the park and is distributed to park patrons interested in bird watching. This type of activity is usually secondary to other primary activities such as hiking, boating or canoeing. No viewing platforms exist within the park; however, open areas and scenic overlooks provide an opportunity to view birds and wildlife.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for patrons to access trails and overlooks for the purposes of bird/wildlife observation will be maintained. • No specific sites or areas are identified for observation purposes. • Brochures and bird check lists will continue to be made available.
2. Place kiosks with informational panels at trailhead locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orients trail users. • Provides information on what may be viewed along the trail. • Provides information on trail rules and etiquette.
3. Create and place benches and, where appropriate, interpretive panels in strategic locations to provide resting areas and opportunities to view forest wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate on Nature Trail. • Not appropriate for all trails. • May be considered too intrusive. • Benches and resting areas may be appropriate to improve accessibility.
4. Construct viewing platforms and interpretive panels along the Lakeside Trail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrusive, does not fit the character of the park. • May be more appropriate along the Nature Trail. • The Lakeside Trail is considered a multiple use trail.

Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 2

With the exception of the Nature Trail there are no marked stations or locations specifically for viewing wildlife and birds. The development of viewing platforms was considered too

intrusive to suit the character of the park. There are few resident bird and wildlife populations that require such facilities. The banks of Moreau Lake are natural sand beach and easily viewable from many trails providing ample opportunity to view water fowl and other wildlife in the park. Literature and check lists are available from various locations, including the Park Office and Nature Center. Alternative 2 provides for the installation and use of kiosks and informational panels to present information about birds and wildlife. Therefore, the preferred options are Status Quo and Alternative 2.

Scenic Areas and Vistas

Existing Conditions: Moreau Lake and the forested upland areas provide a scenic backdrop for campers and day users. Current and past practices of development and management have focused on maintaining the natural character of the park. Views of Moreau Lake exist through natural breaks in vegetation along the Lakeside and Nature Trails. Trails that lead up to the Palmertown Mountains also offer views of Moreau Lake. Benches and picnic tables are placed through out the campground and day use area and along the Nature Trail for resting and viewing. Overlooks or viewing areas, with the exception of interpretation stations on the Nature Trail, have not been identified, signed or mapped.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote development and other actions that are compatible with the character of the park and/or will preserve the scenic qualities of Moreau Lake and its shoreline.
2. Identify and map scenic overlooks and viewing areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signing may be too intrusive. Grand panoramic views may not exist from within this management area. Scenic qualities of the area are more important to the recreation experience than scenic views.

Preferred Option: Status Quo
 The Status Quo alternative recognizes that the Park's natural character is important to the recreation experiences offered at the park. The park will continue to promote development and management actions, such as providing tables and benches, that fit with the natural character of the park and will preserve the scenic qualities of Moreau Lake and its shoreline.

Interpretive Programs

Existing Conditions: The park offers a Nature Center in the vicinity of the Day Use Area where a wide variety of environmental programs and exhibits are offered. Programs are available during the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons. Programs include wildflower hikes, fishing, casting and fish filleting demonstrations. There are regular programs on native mammals, environmental scavenger hunts, slide and video programs and special events such as nighttime bat walks and black bear talks given by experts. During the winter, Nature

Center Staff lead interpretive hikes on foot or on snowshoes using the many trails. Other than these winter hikes there are no other winter environmental interpretation programs.	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to use the Nature Center as the programming “headquarters”.
2. Expand programming by offering more and a greater variety of programs including outreach to the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires more staff. • Current program curriculum meets demand. • Potential to increase revenues.
3. Develop brochures and guides for interpreting such themes as wildlife, birds, ecology and history to be distributed at trailheads and parking areas and the Nature Center.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guides and brochures are being developed for passive activities such as birding/wildlife observation and scenic views.
4. Develop partnerships with volunteer organizations to conduct guided hikes and interpretive programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplements park staff programs. • Requires some sort of Park supervision.
5. Install kiosks and informational panels at trailheads and parking areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralized location to make contact with users. • Provides a minimal park presence. • A trail register could be placed on the kiosk to track use and provide information in case of emergencies.
6. Update and improve signage along the Nature Trail and other appropriate areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to maintain. • May be too many signs. • Necessary for a self guided trail.
7. Develop a winter programming space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current Nature Center or another building could be winterized. • Extra expense to heat. • Could bring in more revenue.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternatives 2-7</p> <p>The Nature Center will continue to serve as the programming headquarters for the Park’s interpretive curriculum. Alternative 7 recognizes that a winterized building will be necessary to expand the Park’s winter programs and use as a four-season park. Alternative 2 proposes to increase interpretive programming which compliments the winter use alternative and Alternative 4. The community outreach proposed by Alternative 2 will be directed toward local school and community groups to teach the history of the area and the Park’s important environmental features. Developing partnerships with organizations will help to implement new interpretive programs and conduct community outreach programs (Alternative 4).</p>	

Alternatives 3 and 5 propose to provide kiosks and written material for those who prefer less structured exploration, while Alternative 6 proposes to improve the existing signage along the self guided Nature Trail and other areas.

Camping and Cottages/Cabins

Existing Conditions: The seven camping loops provide 148 tent/trailer camping sites. Each site can accommodate two vehicles and two tents. Some larger sites can accommodate large trailers and recreational vehicles. There are no electric, water or septic hookups at any of these sites. Comfort stations are located centrally within each loop and a shower building and dump station are available within the campground. Most of the comfort stations do not meet accessibility standards. The campground is often at capacity throughout the summer months and the sites show signs of over use such as pad creep, soil compaction, scarred trees and erosion. There is also a walk-in tent camping area for groups. This area consists of six tent sites, a picnic pavilion and a comfort station. This walk-in group camping area can accommodate up to 35 people. It is available for rent by organized groups and the general public. The park also offers one cottage that can accommodate up to six people and is available for renting on a weekly basis. This is a full service cottage providing bedding and kitchen utensils. It is not currently accessible to persons with disabilities. There are no other cabin or cottage camping opportunities within this management area. The seasonal closure of loops is rotated during off peak seasons.

Category: Tent/Trailer

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide the 148 tent/trailer sites. • Overuse impacts will continue. • Does not meet ADA accessibility standards.
2. Upgrade the existing campground. Include measures to meet accessibility standards, to decrease overuse impacts and improve shower and comfort facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use pilot programs including, site edging and buddy sites to help decrease over use impacts. • Plantings may increase screening of sites. • Will provide accessible comfort stations. • May require changes to water and septic systems. • Explore using more stable, accessible picnic table designs. • Some campground roads may be resurfaced.
3. Add campsites to the existing loops increasing the site density per loop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the opportunity to increase

	<p>camping.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential increased revenue. • Demand exists for more camping facilities in the area. • Does not meet the demand for large RV's. • May detract from the type of camping experience expected at the park. • Does not address over use impacts. • New sites could meet ADA accessibility standards.
4. Reduce the density of sites per loop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to reduce revenue. • Sites could be made larger to accommodate self contained RV's. • Increases the privacy of the sites. • May reduce over use impacts. • Will not increase the number of ADA accessible sites.
5. Create a new camping loop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates additional tent/trailer sites. • Increases campground capacity. • Will require an additional comfort station. • Will require site specific review. • Environmental impacts (cut trees, grading, etc.)

<p>6. Create new camping loops in the property located between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road that offer utility hookups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be used for other activities. • Creates another patron population that has rights to use the day use area. • Sites could provide water, electric and septic hook ups. • Could address the demand for larger RV sites. • Environmental impacts (cut trees, grading, filling, etc.) • Access could be created from Route 9. • Large RV's would be separated from the tent/trailer camping area. • Parking capacity of the day use area cannot support additional vehicle capacity. Current parking is at capacity and there is no physical space for expansion. • Could displace day user parking and create other operational concerns.
<p>7. Create a new camping loop and rotate the closure of loops to "rest" them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could help to recover areas with severely impacted sites. • Closed loops may require a long rotation period. • May not be effective. • May have an impact on revenue. • Allows the park to maintain capacity. • Could upset campers that use the same site year after year when their site is in a closed loop. • Temptation to open closed loops to meet demand during peak seasons.

<p>8. Upgrade the electric service in the campground allowing for potential future electrification of selected sites or loops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would reduce the number of campers using generators at their sites. • Could change the type of camping experience. • Site rental fees could be increased for sites with electric service. • Upgrades to the park’s electric service are needed under current conditions.
<p>9. Improve camper sanitation and solid waste disposal facilities by improving recycling facilities and relocating the dumping station away from existing campsites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be appropriate or necessary with entrance redesign, maintenance area relocation or new camping loop development.
<p>10. Expand camper amenities which may include: laundry facilities, a camper store, a recreation building, play areas or a playground and business nodes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be appropriate or necessary with entrance redesign, maintenance area relocation or new camping loop development. • Space is limited for the construction of new buildings with in the existing campground. • The need or demand for these facilities must be determined. • Provides additional camper activities. • Potential revenue sources. • Requires site specific review.

Preferred Option: Alternatives 2, 6, 8, 9 and 10.

Moreau Lake State Park has one of the few state park campgrounds that are booked at or near capacity each season. The demand for the camping facilities at the park dictates that expansion of the campground be explored. The focus of the preferred alternative is to bring the campground up to ADA standards and improve the conditions of the campground. Alternatives 2, 8, 9 and 10 focus on improving the conditions of the existing camping facilities in their current configuration. Upgrading the electric service improves the functionality of the comfort stations and would allow for future electrification of selected sites or loops. Performing general upgrades to the campground will provide sites that are accessible and prevent pad creep and other camper impacts. Providing camper amenities would encourage campers to stay in the park. Also campers would have their own facilities that would be closer to their campsite and separated from the day use area. Camper sanitation and solid waste disposal facilities could be improved through relocation and/or expansion.

Alternative 6 recommends providing two RV camping loops within the lands between Rt. 9 and Old Saratoga Road. This will further expand camping opportunities within the park and address the demand for larger sites. Play areas and picnic shelters can also be provided

for these campers in this area. Further investigation and site specific review will be required.

Category: Cabins/Cottages	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the use of the Lakeshore Cottage. • No additional cabin or cottage facilities will be provided.
2. Create approximately three (3) cabins/cottages at the southeast corner of the lake in the vicinity of the entrance road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space is limited. • Increases the cabin/cottage opportunities. • Construction costs. (water, sanitary and electric systems) • Requires additional staff to handle housekeeping. • Environmental impacts (cut trees, grading, etc.)
3. Provide additional cottages/cabins within another management area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to offer this type of camping experience exists within other management areas.
4. Adaptive reuse of the Ranger Cabin as a cabin/cottage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an existing structure. • Upgrades and repairs will be necessary. • Located within the campground. • Electric service, water and comfort facilities are available.
5. Provide additional cabins/cottages along the day use area road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the extension or addition of electric, water and septic systems. • Site plans and environmental review will be required.
6. Adaptive reuse of the log cabin across from the boat launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition of the building is poor. • Area is used as overflow parking for boat launch. • Area is also a trailhead parking area. • Utility issues exist at the site.

Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 3
 There is only one cottage available within the park. This unique recreation experience is also in high demand. Inspections and evaluations for potential cabin/cottage locations were conducted in the area near the southeast corner of the lake. Space is limited in the area and it was determined that this area could only support 3 additional cabins/cottages. It was determined that 3 cabins/cottages would not be sufficient to meet current demand. Alternative 3 recommends providing additional cabin/cottage opportunities in other areas of the park. The preferred location for new cabins/cottages is at the “Potter’s Point” area discussed under the Hudson River Corridor Alternatives. A larger number of cabins/cottages could be constructed in this area and would be constructed to accommodate persons with disabilities.

Category: Walk-in/Group Camping
Existing Conditions: The Walk-in/Group Camping area is relatively new and was recently opened to public use. Previously the area was only rented by volunteer organizations performing work within the park and other not-for-profit organizations (i.e. scouting and church groups). Parking for the area is too far away and is insufficient to accommodate patron vehicles. Walk-in/Group campers are parking their vehicles in areas used for overflow camper parking rather than in the parking lot off of Loop C.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo - Maintain the walk-in/group camping area near Moreau Lake.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking issues will not be resolved. • The arrangement of tents in the area will not be controlled and camper impacts (tree scaring, soil compaction, etc.) may be wider spread.
2. Eliminate walk-in/group camping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces the capacity of the campground. • Eliminates a unique camping experience/opportunity. • Creates more open space in the camping area. • Eliminates opportunities for partnerships with volunteer organizations.
3. Create an additional walk-in/group camping area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space within the campground is limited. • This new facility could be located in the property between Rt. 9 and Old Saratoga Road.
4. Improve the existing walk-in/group camping area and include a new parking area for 6 cars. Create a 6 car parking area off the walk-in trail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the area could be controlled better by creating delineated sites or site pads. • The comfort station is not ADA compatible and needs to be upgraded. • The proposed parking area is closer to

	<p>the camping area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces traffic and parking conflicts along the camping area’s trunk road. • Will require a site plan and environmental review.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternative 4 Because the area has been recently opened to public use there hasn’t been enough time to evaluate its use. However, from an operations stand point Alternative 4 offers some suggestions and upgrades that will improve the group camping area’s overall functionality. The creation of the new parking area is discussed under the “Third-Car/Overflow Camping Parking” category.</p>	
<p>Category: Third Car/Overflow Camper Parking</p> <p>Existing Conditions: Campers are permitted only two (2) vehicles per site. Campers sometimes have a third vehicle or have visitors come to their site. Campers with additional vehicles must obtain a third car permit and are directed to park in designated areas along the camping area main road or in the day use parking lot. Sometimes parking along the main camping area road interferes with traffic. Parking problems arise when group camper’s vehicles and camper’s third cars are filling up the designated parking area. Third vehicles parked in the day use parking area overnight are locked in by the gate at 8:00 pm. The gate is unlocked at 8:00 am.</p>	
Options	Considerations
<p>1. Status Quo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking issues will still exist. • Campers/visitors are separated from their third vehicle. • Parking location requires additional security measures (issuing permits and patrolling).
<p>2. Provide 3 car parking lots within each camping loop.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campers will be closer to their vehicles. • Makes identifying violators easier (if a vehicle doesn’t have a permit it gets towed). • Patrols will have to visit each loop to check each lot. • Parking spaces would have to be designated accessible. • Vehicles would be separated from walk-in/group camping parking.
<p>3. Provide a centralized lot for 20 +/- cars between the park office and the recycling center.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrolling would be easier. • Vehicles would be separated from walk-

	<p>in/group camping parking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campers/visitors are separated from their third vehicle but the vehicles would not be inaccessible by a locked gate. • Could also serve as a winter parking area.
4. Provide a closer 6-car parking area for walk-in/group campers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lot off of Loop C could be converted for campground use or reverted to a natural state. • Reduces parking issues. • The parking area would be closer to the camping area.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternatives 2, 3 and 4 Parking in the campground area is limited. The campsites were not designed with multiple car families in mind. Alternatives 2, 3 and 4 provide a possible solution to an increasing problem. The small 3-car parking areas at each loop would provide an easily accessible area for campers with third cars. Third cars would no longer be parked along the main camping area road or locked in the day use area. In the rare case that all the loop parking areas are filled, additional third car parking would be available at a centralized 20-car parking area. This parking area would also be available for camper visitors, registration, equestrian trailer parking and winter program parking. To further relieve parking along the main camping area road a new 6 car parking area that will serve the group camping area will be created closer to the group campsites. Group campers are using an old access road to park along. When the third car parking along the main camping area road is congested these group campers “squeeze” their vehicles into this area rather than using the designated lot.</p>	

Hunting	
<p>Existing Conditions: Small and big game hunting is permitted in designated areas. DEC statewide hunting regulations apply. Safety zones are established around developed areas. In addition to a valid NYS Hunting license, a hunting permit must be obtained from the park. Hunting seasons may be modified by the park, as may safety zones.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting is a permitted activity on park lands. • Current access will be maintained.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo Hunting will be continued as a permitted activity within designated areas of Moreau Lake State Park.</p>	

Fishing
<p>Existing Conditions: Fishing and ice fishing is permitted in Moreau Lake. Fishing from</p>

<p>shore and from water craft are both permitted. Gas and electric powered motors including ice augers are not allowed on Moreau Lake. DEC statewide fishing regulations apply. The County, in cooperation with DEC and the Park, stock Moreau Lake with trout species each year.</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide appropriate parking, shore and boat access to Moreau Lake. • Continue to allow fishing from shore and non-motorized boats. • Continue to work with the County and DEC regarding the stocking program.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo Moreau Lake supports both game and non-game fish and is stocked each year with trout species. Access to the lake is provided for campers and day users to launch water craft. These opportunities will be maintained as will the stocking program. To insure the high water quality of the lake and the character of the park, the use of electric and gas-powered motors including, ice augers, will continue to be prohibited. Therefore, the status quo alternative is preferred.</p>	

Swimming	
<p>Existing Conditions: The management area offers a 300-foot swimming beach on the south end of Moreau Lake. The swimming area is roped into four swimming sections. The total swimming area is approximately 30,000 sq. ft. The beach is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on weekdays and from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM on weekends and holidays. Swimming is permitted only when lifeguards are on duty. The beach has a facility capacity of approximately 1,000 people.</p>	
<p>Category: Beach Swimming (Moreau Lake)</p>	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the beach's current operating hours and capacity.
2. Develop a second beach on Moreau Lake for campers. Locate this beach on the eastern shore near the campground area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional lifeguard staff will be needed. • An additional bath house may be needed. • May relieve congestion at the day use area. • Potential impacts to water quality. • Operational and maintenance concerns.
<p>Preferred Option: Status Quo A second beach was considered for campers on the eastern shore of the lake. However, it was determined that there would be impacts to the lake and operational concerns that make this</p>	

option infeasible. By improving trails (see trails alternatives), campers can access the beach using bikes or on foot without having to take their car. The beach's current operating hours and capacity are sufficient to serve patrons even on the busiest days of the season. It was determined that the Status Quo alternative is preferred.

Category: Bathhouse

Existing Conditions: The bathhouse as it exists does not meet ADA standards and does not function well. Some of the space in the bathhouse is not used.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inefficient use of building space • Providing utilities/services in portions of an unused building.
2. Upgrade and improve the functionality of the bathhouse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May create space for other programming/concessions needs (equipment rentals, snack shop, etc.). • Provides an opportunity to make the building ADA accessible. • Outdoor showers could be installed.

Preferred Option: Alternative 2
 The bathhouse is a required facility for a bathing beach. The layout of the existing bathhouse structure does not meet current needs. Much of the space is unused and the building does not meet ADA design guidelines. The unused space could be reused for other programming and concession needs. Alternative 2 proposes to improve the functionality of the bathhouse and make more efficient use of the building's space.

Picnic Area/Shelters

Existing Conditions: Picnicking primarily takes place within the day use area of the park located on the west side of Moreau Lake. The picnic area offers 190 tables and 90 grills. A picnic pavilion with electrical service and lighting provides group picnicking opportunities for 120 people. Three rental tents are available for additional group picnics. Two have a capacity of 30 people the third has a capacity of 50 people. The day use area also provides play structures, a volleyball court and several horseshoe pits.

Category: Group Picnicking

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for group picnicking will continue through the three rental tents and the pavilion.
2. Replace the tents with permanent facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking and additional support facilities may be required. • Construction costs. • May lose existing individual picnic sites.
3. Build a small pavilion near the volleyball court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is demand within the park for a permanent facility. • Allows the park to keep using the tents for additional group picnicking opportunities. • There are fiscal and environmental impacts to consider. • Services such as electric will need to be provided. • Allows the park to better meet the demand for permanent facilities while keeping within the character of the park.
4. Create new picnic area with shelter(s) on the Rt. 9 lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides additional day use facilities. • Uses the Rt. 9 lands. • Requires extra staff. • Parking, utilities, and support facilities are required. • Creates another patron population that has rights to access the day use facility. • Group picnickers may be less inclined to

	go to the day use area if activities are centered around the picnic area.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternatives 3 and 4</p> <p>The park currently uses 3 rental tents to provide additional group picnicking space. One tent is traditionally placed near the volleyball court. This tent is usually rented first after the pavilion is booked. Some groups prefer the tent location to the pavilion. Alternative 3 proposes constructing a permanent facility near the volleyball court. This presents the park with the opportunity to continue using the three tents and meet the demand for a permanent facility. There is a potential for the park to increase their revenues with an additional picnic facility. Alternative 4 proposes to use the lands between Old Saratoga Road and Route 9 to provide additional facilities in a new picnic area. Further investigation into operational and construction concerns and site specific environmental review would be required. Alternatives 3 and 4 are preferred options for group picnicking.</p>	
Category: Picnic Area	
Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual/family picnic sites with grills will continue to be offered within the day use area.
2. Expand picnic area at day use area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking and additional support facilities may be required. Construction costs. Limited space.
3. Create additional picnic areas on the Rt. 9 lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides additional day use facilities. Uses the Rt. 9 lands. Requires extra staff. Parking, utilities, and support facilities are required. Creates another patron population with rights to enter the day use area. Activity areas (court and field game areas) within the picnic area would make going to the day use area less attractive.

Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 3

Within the existing day use area there are 190 tables and 90 grills available for individual/family picnics. Alternative 2 proposes to expand the picnic area within the day use area. This alternative was rejected because of the limited space and parking. Physically there isn't adequate space to increase the size/capacity of the picnic area. Therefore, the Status Quo option is preferred. Alternative 3 once again proposes to direct new and additional facilities to the lands between Old Saratoga Road and Route 9. As with group picnicking, these new facilities fit best with the first preference of the Access/Entrance alternatives. Individual/family picnic sites would be provided in combination with the group picnicking facilities mentioned in the previous category. Providing picnicking facilities in this area may address the overflow/demand for the day use area during peak use times. It will also separate the activity from the main day use area, the beach and services. The area could also serve as additional winter activity areas and parking. Alternative 3 is also a preferred option.

Boating

Existing Conditions: Boating is permitted in Moreau Lake. The use of motorized boats, including electric motors, is not allowed in Moreau Lake. Row and paddle boats are available for renting. Patrons who wish to launch a craft onto Moreau Lake must pay the day use fee for admission to the park. The park also issues between 25 and 30 seasonal boat permits each year that allow patrons to keep their boat or canoe at the park all season long. These boats/canoes are pulled up onto shore and secured.

Lake/ Water body	Launch type	Parking Capacity	Active (being used)	Condition
Moreau Lake (no motors)	Cartop - Gravel	Off-road parking - 15 spaces	Yes	Good

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain operation of the boat launch area.• Parking works out well.
2. Create a boat storage area, such as boat racks, for both campers and permit holders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People won't use trees to tie up.• Neatens the shoreline.• Storage area will be placed in an area that does not create a visual impact.• Two locations may be necessary; one to serve campers and the other to serve permit holders.
3. Formalize a parking area in the area of the log cabin across from the boat launch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The area is used for parking now.
4. Provide a composting toilet at the boat launch site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are no comfort facilities at the boat launch area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nearest comfort facilities are located in the day use area. • No water or sanitary utilities are required.
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Preferred Option: Status Quo and Alternative 2
 The preferred options propose to maintain the operation of the boat launch area as it is. The only change is the proposal to create boat storage areas for campers and permit holders. These areas would be strategically located so that they are easily accessible to boat permit holders and campers. The current methods of boat storage are damaging to the trees and create a visual impact on the shoreline. These impacts will be dramatically reduced with the addition of the boat storage areas. The boat storage areas may also prevent damage and/or theft of patrons' boats. Alternatives 3 and 4 were rejected due to space constraints and the availability of additional parking and comfort facilities at the day use area. Therefore, the Status Quo and Alternative 2 were chosen as preferred.

Maintenance Area/Facility

Existing Conditions: The Maintenance Area is located immediately adjacent to the park entrance. While the Maintenance Area functions adequately, it needs to be upgraded, improved and expanded to accommodate the larger park. The current location is visually unattractive and can be seen by park patrons entering the park. The area of the maintenance facility is also considered to be culturally significant as are some of the buildings near the facility.

Options	Considerations
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Maintenance Area would not be relocated or upgraded.
2. Improve the Maintenance Area facilities and the historic structure at current location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Maintenance Area would function more efficiently. • Utility upgrades will be required. • The historic structure will be stabilized and preserved for future reuse. • Facilities remain visually intrusive to park entrance.

<p>3. Relocate the facility, reuse the site for other programming needs and stabilize the remaining historic structure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires providing utilities, water supplies and sanitary systems. • May be necessary with entrance redesign options. • The historic structure will be stabilized and preserved for future reuse. • Facility can be located to reduce visual intrusion on entrance and park experience. • The old site can be reused for entrance redesign or additional programming space.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternative 3. Alternative 3 recommends moving the Maintenance Facility to a new location. The most appropriate site would be on the Rt. 9 lands in the vicinity of the old gravel mine. The remaining historic structure could then be stabilized and reused for future programming. Relocating the maintenance area would also allow maintenance staff more efficient travel time to more remote and satellite areas.</p>	

Property between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road	
<p>Existing Conditions: The park owns property between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road. The property was initially purchased to redesign the entrance and give the park a presence on Route 9. To date the property is undeveloped and the entrance remains off Old Saratoga Road.</p>	
Options	Considerations
<p>1. Status Quo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property is undeveloped.
<p>2. Create additional camping loops for RVs and large campers. Access would be from a new park access road off Old Saratoga Road directly opposite the exiting entrance. Contact and camper registration would occur at a new Contact Station built along the park access road.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrance control to the area is covered by a new contact station. • Large RVs and campers are separated from the tent/trailer camping area. • Meets the demand for RV facilities. • Expands camping opportunities within the park.
<p>3. Use the property for overflow day use parking. Day users would park in the lot on the Rt. 9 lands and walk across Old Saratoga Road into the park. The entrance and access road would be across from the existing Park Entrance off Old Saratoga Road.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrons would still pay day use fee. • Too far to walk carrying coolers, chairs and other picnic accessories. • Requires an additional contact station and staffing.

<p>4. Create picnic pavilions with parking, play areas and other amenities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrons would still pay day use fee. • Provides additional group picnicking facilities. • Provides activity areas for RV campers reducing congestion at the day use area.
<p>5. Develop a network of trails on the property, to be accessed by various "pull off" parking areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Pull-off parking" may aggravate congestion on Old Saratoga Road. • Smaller parking areas limit the number of users in the area. • Parking areas may be filled by day users waiting to enter the park during peak use times.
<p>6. Use the property to redesign the entrance of the park as described in alternatives under the access category.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of this area for an entrance alternative would limit other future development of this area.
<p>7. Relocate the maintenance area/facility to the northern part of the Rte. 9 property.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates a better functioning entrance area to the park. • Utilities would have to be brought in to the area (e.g. electric, water, septic). • Maintenance Area can be constructed and expanded to serve the larger park more efficiently.
<p>Preferred Option: Alternatives 2, 4, and 7</p> <p>Preferred options identified represent the preferred options in other sections of the plan that involve use of the lands between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access/Park Entrance – Access would be off Old Saratoga Road directly opposite the exiting entrance. Contact and camper registration would occur at the Park Office. A Contact Station built on the Route 9 property will provide control and security for camper access and egress. 2. Camping (Tent/trailer Camping) - Create new camping loops accommodate RVs and large campers on the property located between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road that offer utility hookups. 3. Picnic Area/Shelters (Group Picnicking) – Create new picnic areas with shelter(s) on the Route 9 Lands. 4. Picnic Area/Shelters (Picnic Area) – Create additional picnic areas on the Route 9 Lands. 5. Maintenance Area/Facility – Relocate the facility to an old gravel mine on the Route 9 property. The old location and remaining buildings may be reused for other programming needs. 	

Resource Protection Alternatives

Programs such as Bird Conservation Area, Natural Heritage Area and Park Preservation Area designations are considered and alternatives are developed here. The alternatives presented in this section apply to the park as a whole. It was determined that these programs applied to all of the Management Areas equally. All, a portion or none of the park land may ultimately be designated under these programs.

Bird Conservation Areas and Natural Heritage Areas

During the development of master plans, designation of parks and sites or portions of parks and sites for resource protection or for recreation is considered. The Moreau Lake master planning process is addressing two relatively new laws which allow agencies to designate lands under their jurisdiction as Bird Conservation Areas (BCA) and/or Natural Heritage Areas (NHA).

Consistent with its mission OPRHP conducts evaluations and makes recommendations for both recreation use and resource protection. The Agency has been doing this through its planning and environmental review process.

Both the BCA and NHA programs are designed to identify and conserve resources – for BCAs it is birds and bird habitat and for NHAs, rare, threatened and endangered species and significant natural communities that occur within state owned lands. Unlike the Park Preserve Law in the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law (which provides some reference to recreational uses) both the BCA and NHA laws are silent on recreation activities. No provision in either legislation is made to prohibit or hinder future recreational uses.

However, silence within a law or regulation does not mean there is not a need to address concerns. The BCA law created an Advisory Committee which, in turn, organized an interagency working group to assist with program implementation. These groups have made it clear that the BCA designation does not impact existing uses.

The Natural Heritage Areas Law, on the other hand, does not include the development of an Advisory Committee and the designation process is still being developed thus, there is no definitive statement on existing uses or recreation. There is an implicit responsibility in the administering agency to assure that existing uses will not be detrimental to the viability of the identified rare, threatened or endangered species or significant natural community(s). There may be instances, however, where a designation might require change or modification of an activity in order to protect a specific species. In some cases, modification would be desirable for both recreation user safety and protection of natural resources. However, it is expected that a NHA designation will almost never impact existing uses.

BCA and NHA designations are consistent with proper planning for recreational use. They facilitate the proper siting and design of recreational uses and programming. Since both BCA and NHA designations do not specifically prohibit any uses, any future proposals for recreational use can be considered within designated areas. The type and extent of any such proposal would be evaluated in the context of the scientific criteria (that led to designation) and site characteristics and management recommendations. OPRHP's Resource Management Group (RMG), planning and environmental reviews of specific proposals benefit from the "up-front" work and findings associated with the designations and the

master planning process. Work of the resource inventory and evaluation has already been done.

Each BCA designation has its own Management Guidance Summary (See Appendix H). This is a general summary that outlines the criteria specified in the law that have been met, as well as various questions related to the protection of the species or ecological communities that are the basis for designation. The guidelines in these summaries are not specific, e.g. they may indicate that there should be predator control or management in connection with the protection of a species at risk, but they do not specify the precise methods or approaches to control. There may be subsequent and more specific implementation plans developed for the protection of a particular species or community that will be done in consultation with other resource agencies such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, NYS DEC as well as with our own park managers, regional resource staff and RMG members.

It must be noted that the NHA designation is focused on the specific species and/or communities that are the basis for the designation. Recognizing them up front gives State Park Managers a clearer picture of the type and extent of activities that are appropriate.

Within State Parks the primary approach to resource management is natural area management, which calls for allowing natural processes to occur without significant intervention on the part of facility managers. Natural areas are those areas where the character of the vegetation and wildlife is largely the result of ongoing natural processes and events. Existing management practices within natural areas include but are not limited to:

- 1) inventory, protection and interpretation of rare and endangered species,
- 2) hazardous tree removal,
- 3) nuisance animal control,
- 4) fire suppression in the absence of a prescribed burn plan,
- 5) mowing of roadsides and open fields,
- 6) scenic vista maintenance, and
- 7) environmental research and monitoring.

The existing practices in State Parks basically are aligned toward the recognition that environmental conditions do change over time. As indicated above, however, OPRHP's existing practices do allow for steps to be taken for protection of species and or communities at risk.

Habitats of some rare species populations and significant ecological communities may require periodic maintenance. However, most rare species and significant ecological communities require no active maintenance of their habitat or habitat structure. If a Natural Heritage Area no longer meets the designation criteria, the law provides a process for removing all or a portion of the area from the NHA designation. Those communities that are generally monitored and tracked by the Natural Heritage Program have shown that they are not likely to lose their significance over time. This is primarily because these communities are late successional types, which means they will remain virtually the same (from a large scale perspective) if left alone through time.

Bird Conservation Area

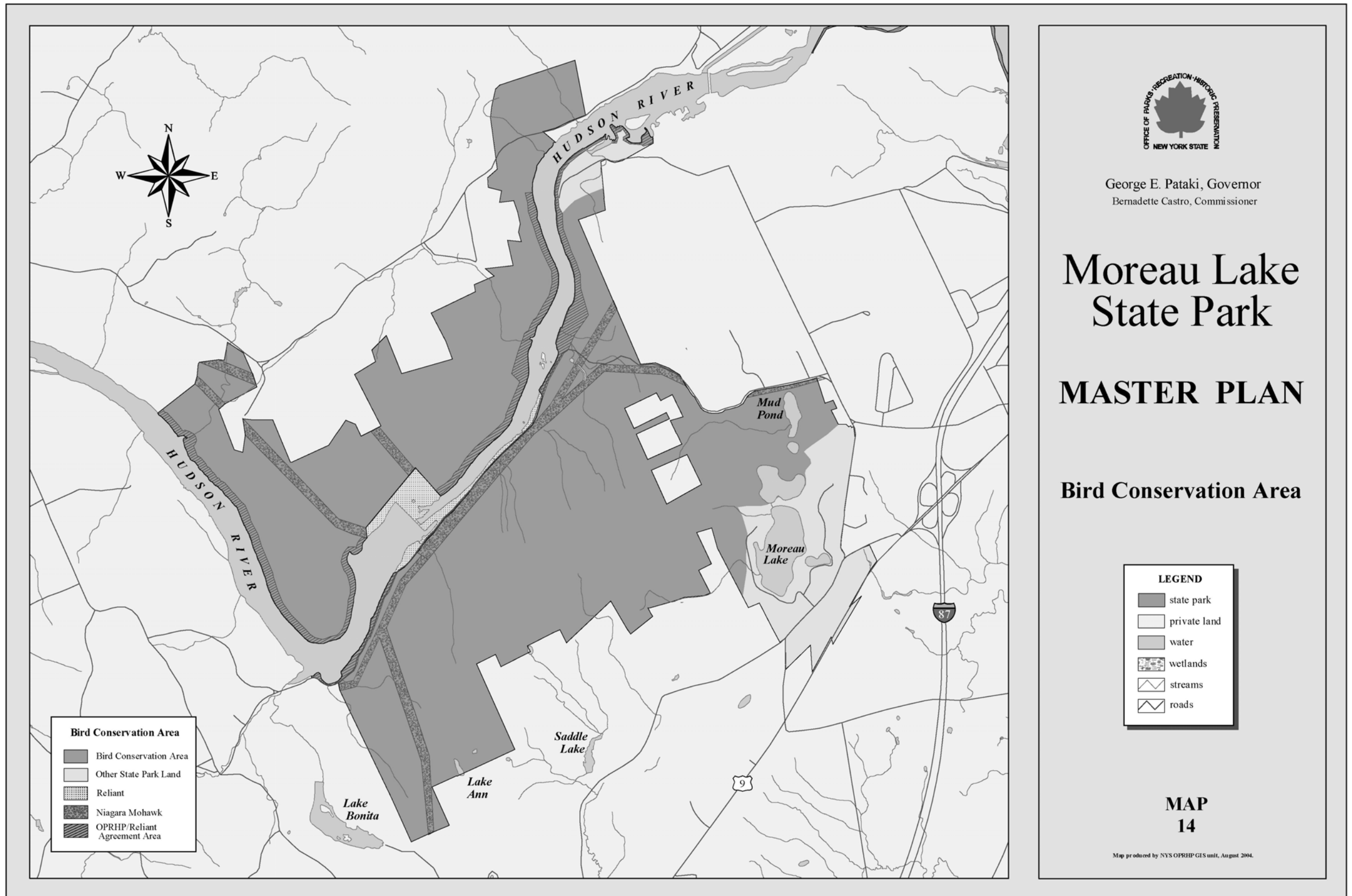
As noted earlier in this chapter the Park meets three of the nine criteria listed within the Bird Conservation Area Law which makes it eligible for designation as a BCA. The Park is

considered a migratory bird concentration site, a diverse species concentration site and a species at risk site (see also Appendix F). Field investigations were conducted and a proposed BCA boundary was identified (See Map 14).

<u>Existing Conditions</u>	
<p>The park is primarily forested with large contiguous blocks of differing community types. The park contains a 128+ acre lake and two smaller ponds with associated wetlands. The Hudson River corridor transects the park in an east-west direction. Along the Hudson River corridor the park lands rise steeply to the south up to the ridge of the Palmertown Mountain Range. Likewise park land rises in a less steep manner to the north along the Luzerne Mountains. The more than 2,000 acres of hemlock-northern hardwood forest is considered to be a significant ecological community by the Natural Heritage Program. Some areas of this community display characteristics of mature forest which contributes to a diversity of bird species within the park. There are seven miles of wooded shoreline along the Hudson River that serves as a migration corridor for migratory bird species. Also, through observation, the park is known to support species listed in New York as threatened and as species of special concern.</p>	
Alternatives	Issues and Concerns
Designate the entire park as a BCA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designates areas of the park not considered important to birds or bird habitat. • Some areas within the park have greater conservation value than other areas. • Some areas within the park do not meet the criteria for BCA designation. • Some areas within the park support or are proposed to support recreational development. • Creates a greater awareness of the significance of the resource.
Designate only areas of the park that meet the criteria for BCA designation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designates areas that have been identified through literature and field investigation that best meet criteria for BCA designation. • The hemlock-northern hardwood forest/beechnorthern hardwood forest complex contributes to the diversity of birds species within the park. • Mud Pond and its associated wetland areas are potential breeding areas for New York listed threatened species. • The Hudson River and its associated

	<p>uplands serve as a migration route for migratory birds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The campground, proposed camping areas and Appalachian oak-pine forest communities within the park are considered to have some conservation value, but would not significantly increase the quality of a BCA. • Creates a greater awareness of the significance of the resource.
Do not designate a BCA within this park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This particular park was not identified as an Audubon Important Bird Area and was not a priority for BCA designation. • Does not create a greater awareness of the significance of the resource. • Parkland will not be afforded the extra protection.
<p>Preferred Alternative: Designate only areas of the park that meet the criteria for BCA designation.</p> <p>The areas of the park that best meet the BCA law criteria, exhibit high bird conservation value and the primary focus is on the natural characteristics of the park rather than recreation. These areas support diverse species populations, migratory bird species and species at risk. While it was noted that many areas of the park meet the criteria of the BCA law and have some bird conservation value, their inclusion in the BCA would not significantly enhance bird habitat. Therefore, these areas are not recommended for inclusion in the BCA. These areas exist in high use areas of the park where the primary use is recreational activity.</p>	

Map 14 – Bird Conservation Area



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Natural Heritage Area

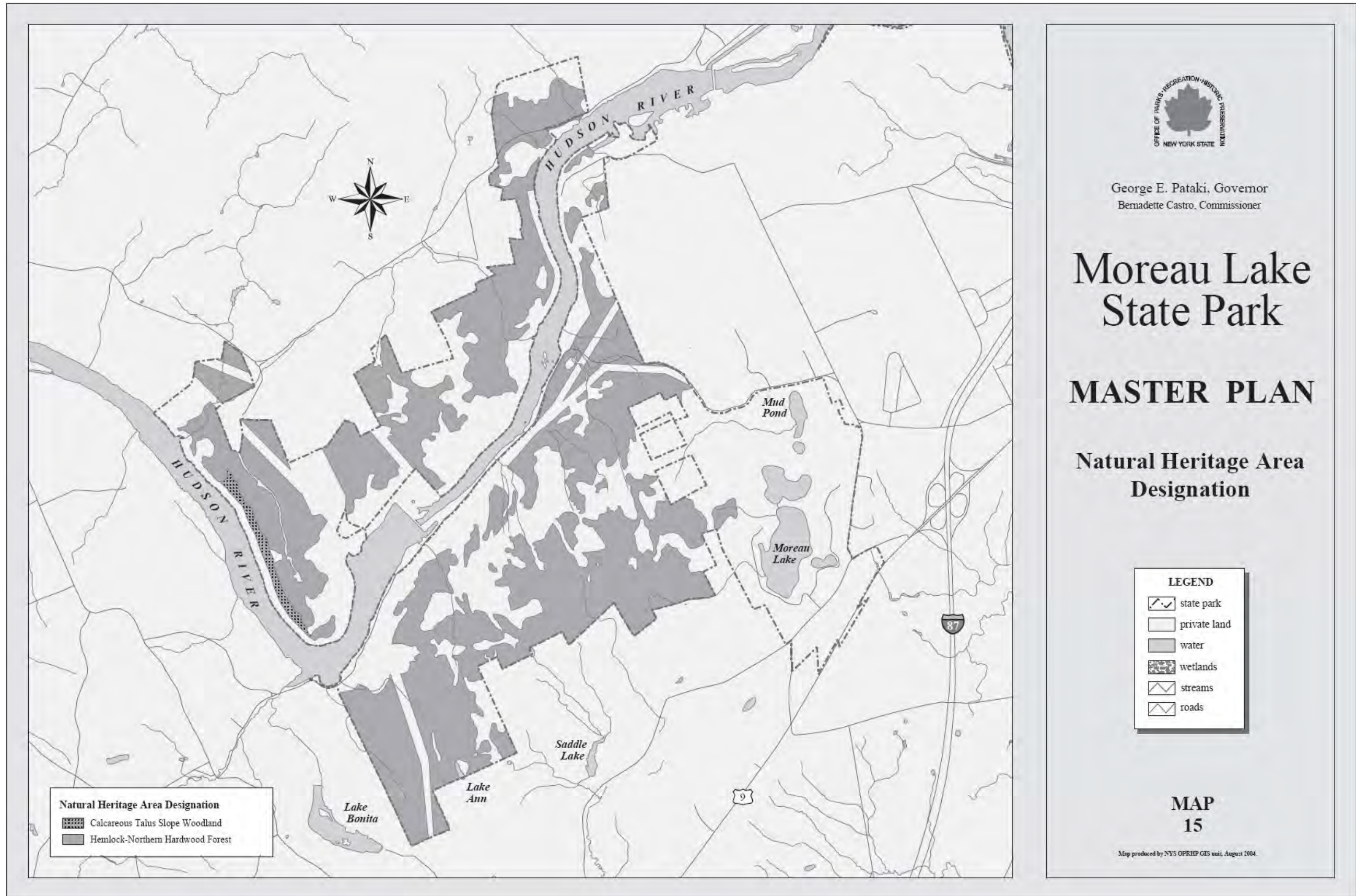
As noted earlier, the park contains two ecological communities that have been identified as significant by the NY Natural Heritage Program. These communities meet one of the three criterion identified in the Natural Heritage Area Law. The proposed designation area is shown on Map 15, which identifies the communities and their locations within the park.


<u>Existing Conditions</u>	
Community Type	Qualities
Hemlock-northern hardwood forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large blocks of contiguous forest. • Identified as a significant community because it is an excellent example of a common community type. • Mature forest not subject to significant change over time. • Occupies 2,254 acres. of the park (54%). • Currently supports trail uses and trail head parking. • Largest blocks of contiguous community type exist outside the park boundary. • The community type within the park is intermingled with beech-maple mesic forest type. • Common community type – not ranked rare statewide or globally.
Beech-maple mesic forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not identified as a significant community by the Natural Heritage Program. • Occupies 1,024 acres of the park (25%). • Currently supports trail uses, trail head parking and primitive camping. • Occurs interspersed with hemlock-northern hardwood community within park boundaries. • Common community type – not ranked rare statewide or globally.

Calcareous talus slope woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked rare within the state and globally. • Exists on a steep west-facing slope on the north side of the Hudson River. • Occupies 30 acres of Park (<1%). • Occurs as a contiguous block. • Occurs within a beech-maple mesic forest. • Steep terrain makes it undesirable for most recreational developments.
Alternative	Issues/Concerns
Designate only the boundaries of the significant communities (hemlock-northern hardwood forest and calcareous talus slope woodland).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implies hard lines for community type changes. • Mapped as estimated boundaries. • Boundaries are more difficult to manage and explain to the public. • Creates a mosaic look to the designated area. • Recognizes only the communities that are significant. • Creates a greater awareness of the significance of the resource.
Designate an NHA according to the “Management Area boundaries” as defined within the plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designates communities that do not meet the criteria of the NHA Law. • Includes nearly all of the identified significant community. • Creates a designation of one or two large blocks. • Designated area boundaries would be easier to manage and explain to the public. • Forest is easier to interpret for the public. • Could nearly coincide with other proposed designation boundaries (BCA). • Creates a greater awareness of the significance of the resource.
Designate only the Calcareous Talus Slope Woodland Community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a contiguous block within the park boundary. • Designates a rare community within the state and globally. • Creates a greater awareness of the significance of the resource.

<p>An NHA will not be designated within this park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not take advantage of the new law. • Significant communities will not be recognized as a Natural Heritage Area. • Does not create a greater awareness of the significance of the resource. • Significant natural communities will be recognized within the plan but not as a designated Natural Heritage Area.
<p>Preferred Alternative: Designate only the boundaries of the significant communities (hemlock-northern hardwood forest and calcareous talus slope woodland) as defined within the Natural Heritage Report for Moreau Lake State Park. This alternative was selected in order to accurately represent and recognize the significant communities within the park.</p>	

Map 15 –Natural
Heritage Area
Designation




 George E. Pataki, Governor
 Bernadette Castro, Commissioner

Moreau Lake State Park

MASTER PLAN

Natural Heritage Area Designation

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Park Preservation Areas

Article 20 of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law outlines the process for designation of entire parks or portions of parks as part of a statewide park preserve system. Portions of Parks are designated as Park Preservation Areas (PPA). See Map 16 for the proposed boundary of a Park Preservation Area within Moreau Lake State Park.

Designation primarily impacts the range of options for future recreation activities. Passive recreation such as bird watching and trail activities would be allowed. More intensive activities such as athletic fields and motorized uses would be directed toward more appropriate locations. Designation does not preclude motorized use associated with park operations or enforcement activities. Article 20 allows for the establishment of an admission control system by permit to insure that use is commensurate with maintaining ecological viability. However, the levels of impacts associated with uses at existing Preserves/Preservation Areas have not necessitated the creation of any extensive permit process. The permit requirement does serve as an opportunity to invoke greater protection of sensitive environmental resources should a need arise.

Existing Conditions	
Management Area	Qualities
Moreau Lake State Park (Whole Park)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all of the park property is “owned” by OPRHP. • Areas of the park currently support high levels of use. • Some areas of the park are intensively developed. • Areas of the park are proposed for development. • Areas of significant natural communities have been identified within and adjacent to the park. • Portions of the park support only trail and trailhead facilities. • Historic, cultural, archeological and scenic resources are also located within and adjacent to the park.
Lake Recreation Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports day uses, trails, and a camping area and handles the entry/exit of most park patrons. • This area is where the most intensive use is concentrated. • Existing activities include but are not limited to: bicycling, nature interpretation, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, tent/trailer camping, field/court games, family and group picnicking, swimming, non-motorized boating and fishing. • The area contains significant wetland areas associated with the north pond of the lake.

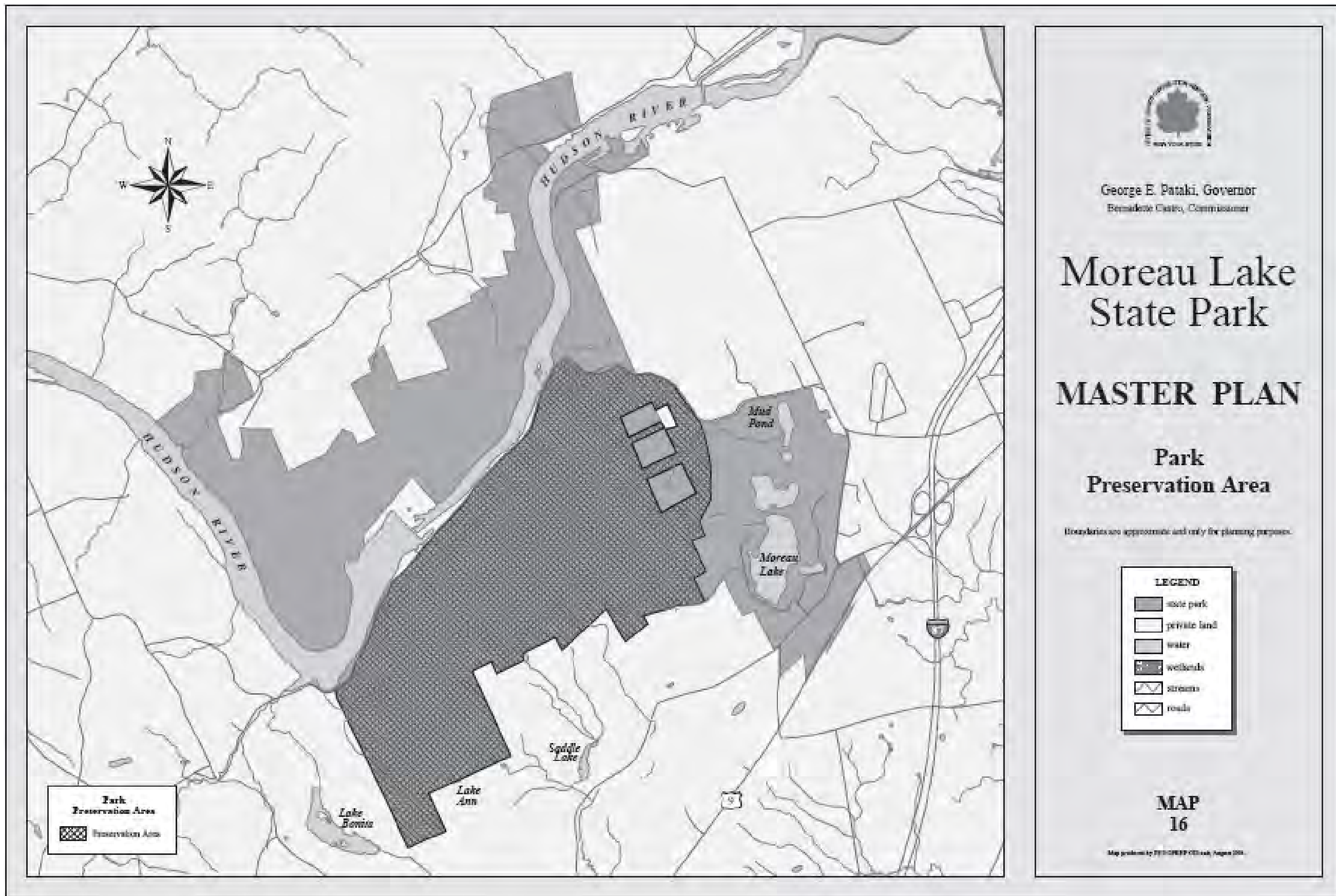
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area contains waterfowl habitat and forest bird habitat that has some conservation value. • No new uses or activities are proposed for this area. Proposals for this area involve improvement of existing facilities such as camping and picnicking areas. • High level of intensity for recreational uses. • Motor vehicles are permitted in this area. • A mixture of active and passive uses take place within this area. • There are areas that are physically undeveloped yet the entire area is intensively used. • The Lake Recreation Area is approximately 17% of the entire park. • Areas identified as developed by the Natural Heritage Report are approximately four percent of the Lake Recreation Area. • The campground loops and associated roads are included within the Appalachian oak-pine forest community type delineation. Camping may be considered an intensive use. • Appalachian oak-pine forest is not considered a significant community type within this park according to the Natural Heritage Program Report. • Contains historic, cultural, archeological and scenic resources.
Palmertown Mountain Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports uses including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking and hiking and uses such as hunting, scenic viewing and natural and cultural interpretation. • Trail facilities include 15 miles of multiple use trails, 3 trailhead parking areas and various other points of access. • Primitive campsites with or without a lean-to are proposed for this area. • Access to the Palmertown Mountain Area can be obtained from trail heads located along Spier Falls Rd. and from within the Lake Recreation Area. • The hemlock-northern hardwood community type is recognized as significant as it is within and adjacent to

	<p>this management area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No species of rare, threatened, endangered or special concern plants or animals were identified through the Natural Heritage Program’s inventory and analysis. • National Grid is allowed motor vehicle use for access to power lines. • Should the four private in-holdings be acquired, access to the trail system for other trail users could be established. • Contains historic, cultural, archaeological and scenic resources.
Hudson River Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on providing access to the Hudson River for boating and fishing. • The majority of this area is owned by the power company that owns the hydroelectric power generating stations, but is managed by OPRHP as part of Moreau Lake State Park. • Facilities include two boat launches (south shore) and four primitive water-accessed campsites (north shore). • Uses of the corridor include primitive camping, canoeing, kayaking, fishing (both from boat and shore) and motor boating. • Proposed facilities and uses for the area include expansion of day use facilities, additional primitive campsites, another boat launch (north shore), and eventual development of a campground and cabin colony. • Insect species of special concern were found within the river corridor as indicated by the Natural Heritage Program Report for the park. • Bald Eagles have been seen using the area in fall, winter and spring. Northern Harrier is seen in the area during migration; however, habitat for this species is not present in the park. • Contains historic, cultural, archeological and scenic resources.

Warren County Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently undeveloped. • This section of the park is owned by DEC. Under a management agreement, it is managed by OPRHP as part of Moreau Lake State Park. • The area supports various trail uses on an informally developed network of trails and abandoned roads. • Uses have included horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, hiking and mountain biking. • Development proposals for this area of the park include formalizing the trail network and developing public access and parking. • The hemlock-northern hardwood community type is recognized as significant as it is within and adjacent to this management area. • The calcareous talus slope woodland community type is recognized as significant and is a contiguous block within the park boundary. • Bald Eagles have been seen using the area in fall, winter and spring. • Contains historic, cultural, archeological and scenic resources.
Alternative	Issues/Concerns
Designate (re-classify) the entire park as a Park Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designates areas that do not meet the criteria/ intent of the Park Preserve Law. • May designate areas not eligible for designation under the Park Preserve Law. • May be considered incompatible with the traditional use of the park as a recreational retreat.
Designate a Park Preserve Area with the same boundaries as a BCA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area will have additional use and development restrictions. • May designate areas not eligible for designation under the Park Preserve Law. • Designated area boundaries would be easier to manage and explain to the public.
Designate only the areas within the Palmertown Mtn. Area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant ecological community is present but is not considered rare statewide or globally. • The area currently supports trail uses, trail support facilities and hunting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers scenic views and contains cultural resources. • Passive use restriction under the Park Preserve Law may not impact future uses.
<p>A Park Preserve/Park Preservation Area will not be designated within this park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no development restrictions as a result of this designation. • Incompatible uses with the designation will not occur. • Traditional use of the park as a recreational retreat is not enhanced or impacted.
<p>Preferred Alternative: Designate only the area identified as the Palmertown Mountain Management Area as a Park Preservation Area.</p> <p>The management area contains the hemlock-northern hardwood community type, a significant ecological community identified by the NY Natural Heritage Program. The community is ranked as “common” statewide and globally. It is part of a larger system that extends beyond the park boundary. It is significant because of its size and is an excellent example of the community type. This significant ecological community is also proposed for designation as a Natural Heritage Area.</p> <p>No rare plants or animals were found within this management area during field surveys conducted by Natural Heritage Program scientists in 1999; however, the threatened bald eagle has been known to use the surrounding areas during winter.</p> <p>The forested area of the Palmertown Mountain Area meets criteria for designation as a Bird Conservation Area (BCA).</p> <p>The Spier Falls Dam can be seen from this area of the park and is considered by many to be a significant scenic and historic resource. It is not part of the management area or under park jurisdiction.</p> <p>The management area offers grand panoramic views of the Hudson River the Luzerne Mountains, the foothills of the Adirondacks (to the north and west), the Green Mountains in Vermont, the Hudson River and Lake Champlain Valleys and Moreau Lake (to the south and east). The forest and the steep rising topography provide scenic surroundings for recreationists on the river and at Moreau Lake. Designation of the Palmertown Mountain Area as a Park Preservation Area will provide greater weight to the Agency’s concerns over and requests for mitigation of impacts from significant intrusions into the views.</p> <p>Cultural resources within the Management Area should be stabilized (if appropriate) and interpreted, scenic vistas and view points should be maintained, and use of the area will primarily consist of appropriate trail uses on a network of existing trails.</p> <p>Existing and proposed recreational uses include, hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and primitive camping. There is potential for horseback riding in the area; however, acquisition of in-holdings would be necessary to make access to the area possible. The designated trail system on the ridge area is well designed to meet existing and proposed uses. There will be greater emphasis to assure that the capacity of the trail system is not exceeded with a Park Preservation Area designation.</p>	

Map 16 –Park
Preservation Area
Designation



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Master Plan Alternatives

Two master plan alternatives are considered here. The first is the Status Quo alternative. This alternative consists of current facilities, programs and practices as described in the Environmental Setting Chapter. Under this alternative, the current resource protection, operation, capacity and facility practices will continue. The increasing demands on the park will not be met or mitigated nor will the resources be adequately protected.

The remaining alternative combines the preferred alternatives from the Recreation Development and Resource Protection Alternatives sections. There are many permutations that can be derived from the preferred alternatives. The one presented here is the one that best meets the goals for the park. The following tables show the Status Quo alternative and the Preferred Master Plan alternative.

Status Quo

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
Access/Entrance	<p>Access to the river corridor will continue to be provided via the Spier Falls and Sherman Island boat launches.</p> <p>Access to water access campsites will continue. "Potter's Point" will not be accessible by land.</p> <p>No access will be provided from Warren County.</p>	<p>No formal entrance to the park exists. Access to the property can be obtained via Corinth Road and Hawk Road. Visitors may also access this property via the Hudson River shoreline (water access is discussed within the Hudson River Corridor Management Area.)</p>	<p>No formal park entrance exists. Access to the property can be obtained via Spier Falls Road and from within the Lake Recreation Area.</p>	<p>The main entrance to the park is off of Old Saratoga Road accessed from State Route 9 via exit 17 off I-87 (the Northway). Patron vehicles waiting to enter the park "stack-up" on Old Saratoga Road during peak use periods and interfere with traffic flow on Old Saratoga Road. Registered campers still have rights to enter the park but often have to wait in the "stacking lines".</p>
Trail Activities - Water Trail	<p>Continue management and operation of the four campsites, two boat launches and the portage trail around Spier Falls Dam</p> <p>No promotion of a water trail or facilities.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Trail Activities - Connector Trails	<p>No connector trails, bridges or routes will be constructed that connect the Saratoga County side with the Warren County side.</p>	<p>See Hudson River Corridor Management Area.</p>	N/A	N/A

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
Trail Activities - Biking (including Mountain Biking)	N/A	Informal use of existing trails will continue.	Trail maintenance and improvements will continue.	All park roads are used by bicycles. Bikers use the Nature Trail to get to the beach or complete a circuit around the lake. Park roads are narrow, especially in the camping loops, and camper traffic isn't looking out for cyclists on the side of the road. Bike-automobile accidents occur on park roads.
Trail Activities - Hiking	N/A	Informal use of existing trails will continue.	Trail maintenance and improvements will continue.	No new hiking trails will be developed. Existing trails will continue to be maintained.
Trail Activities - Interpretive Trails	N/A	Trails are not inventoried or designated as interpretation trails.	Trails are not inventoried or designated as interpretation trails.	The Nature Trail will be maintained in its current condition. It will not be considered accessible.
Trail Activities - Equestrian	N/A	Informal use of existing trails will continue.	Use will continue in an informal manner.	Equestrian users are mostly local and ride their horses into the park. Parking for horse trailers is not specifically provided. Trailers are parked in the day use area lot when necessary. No trails are designated for equestrian use. Equestrians who use the park must show proof of Coggins vaccination to the park.

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
Trail Activities - Snowmobiling	N/A	Snowmobile use will continue within the park in an informal manner.	There are no designated snowmobile trails. This activity is not considered appropriate for this management area.	There are no designated snowmobile trails. Winter use by snowshoers and cross-country skiers is well established.
Trail Activities - Cross-Country Skiing	N/A	Informal use of existing trails will continue.	Trail maintenance and improvements will continue. Trails are not groomed.	Cross-country skiing will continue on ungroomed park roads and trails.
Trail Activities - Snowshoeing	N/A	Informal use of existing trails will continue.	Trail maintenance and improvements will continue.	Snowshoeing will continue on ungroomed park roads and trails.
Trail Activities - Trails Plan	N/A	Trail use will continue in an informal manner.	N/A	N/A
Birding/Wildlife Observation	Bird and wildlife viewing will continue within the park. No specific viewing locations will be identified.	Bird and wildlife viewing will continue within the park. No specific viewing locations will be identified.	Bird and wildlife viewing will continue within the park. No specific viewing locations will be identified.	Opportunities for patrons to access the trails and overlooks for the purposes of bird/wildlife observation will be maintained. No specific observation sites or areas will be identified. Brochures and bird check lists will continue to be available.

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
Scenic Areas and Vistas	No specific scenic vantage points are identified.	Scenic vistas already identified will be maintained.	Scenic overlooks will continue to be accessed via the ridge trails and identified on maps.	Continue to promote development and other actions that are compatible with the character of the park and/or will preserve the scenic qualities of Moreau Lake and its shoreline. Benches and picnic tables are placed throughout the day use and campground areas and along the Nature Trail.
Interpretive Programs	Current signage, kiosks and brochures will be used to interpret the various themes of the area. Guided tours, both on land and water will continue.	Continue guided hikes that include interpretive elements and are conducted by Park Staff.	Continue guided hikes that include interpretive elements conducted by park staff.	Continue to use the Nature Center as the programming "headquarters".
Camping and Cottages/Cabins- Water-accessed Camping	Maintain the four existing primitive campsites as water-accessed campsites. Requires monitoring the use and impacts of the existing sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Camping and Cottages/Cabins - Backpack/Primitive Camping	N/A	Facilities of this type are not provided.	Backpack/primitive camping is not permitted within the park.	N/A

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
Camping and Cottages/Cabins-Tent/Trailer	Continue to provide improved camping opportunities within the Lake Recreation Mangement Area. No additional revenue or construction costs will be incurred. No new camping experience along the river will be provided.	Facilities of this type are not provided.	There are no camping facilities of this type.	Continue to provide the 148 tent/trailer sites. Over use impacts will continue to occur. The campground is not ADA accessible.
Camping and Cottages/Cabins-Cabins/Cottages	No additional cabin or cottage facilities are provided	Facilities of this type are not provided.	There are no camping facilities of this type.	Maintain use of the Lakeshore Cottage as a rental unit. No additional cabin or cottage facilities are available.
Camping and Cottages/Cabins - Walk-in/Group Camping	N/A	N/A	There are no camping facilities of this type.	Parking for the walk-in/group camping area is too far away and insufficient to accommodate patron vehicles. Walk-in/group campers are parking in an area designated for overflow parking, which creates traffic flow problems in the campground area. Arrangement of tents in the area is not controlled.

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
Camping and Cottages/Cabins - Third Car/Overflow Camper Parking	N/A	N/A	N/A	Third car/overflow parking will continue to be along the main trunk road of the campground and in the day use area lot. Traffic flow and security issues exist when third car/overflow parking is at capacity.
Hunting	Small and big game hunting will be maintained as a permitted activity on park lands.	Small and big game hunting will be maintained as a permitted activity on park lands.	Maintain hunting as a permitted activity on park lands and maintain existing access.	Hunting is a permitted activity on park lands. Current access will be maintained.
Fishing	Provide appropriate parking, shore and boat access to the Hudson River. Continue to allow fishing in the Hudson River.	N/A	Lake Ann is not accessible from park trails at this time.	Appropriate parking, shore and boat access will be provided. Fishing from non-motorized boats and shore is allowed. Ice fishing is allowed when conditions permit. Continue to work with the County and DEC regarding the stocking program.
Swimming	Swimming is not permitted in the Hudson River.	N/A	Swimming is not permitted in Lake Ann. Lake Ann is not accessible from park trails.	The current operating hours and capacity of the beach at Moreau Lake will be maintained.
Swimming - Bathhouse	N/A	N/A	N/A	The bathhouse will continue to operate in it's current configuration.

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
Picnicking	Informal picnics may take place along side of Spier Falls Road or in the boat launch parking areas. The Sherman Island Boat Launch provides some picnic tables and portable toilet facilities. The Spier Falls Boat Launch provides only picnic tables.	Continue providing opportunities for picnicking in other areas of the park.	There is no designated picnic area. Informal picnics will continue.	Group Picnicking - Opportunities for group picnicking will continue through the use of the three rental tents and the pavilion. Picnic Area – Individual/family picnic sites with grills will continue to be offered within the day use area.
Boating/Boat Launching	Spier Falls Boat Launch - Current operation and condition of the launch will be maintained. Sherman Island Boat Launch - Current operation and condition of the launch will be maintained.	N/A	Lake Ann is not accessible from park trails at this time.	Moreau Lake Boat Launch - Maintain operation of the boat launch area with existing parking.
Administration/Maintenance	No Park maintenance structure will be provided. Maintenance by Park staff will be coordinated from the maintenance facility in the Lake Recreation Area. Park Police will continue periodic patrols.	No park structures are provided. Park Police will continue periodic patrols. Maintenance by Park staff will be coordinated from the maintenance facility in the Lake Recreation Area.	Continue current maintenance and administration procedures. Maintenance by Park staff will be coordinated from the maintenance facility in the Lake Recreation Area.	The Maintenance Area is located immediately adjacent to the park entrance. It will continue to function in its current configuration.
Property between Rt. 9 and Old Saratoga Road (OSR)	N/A	N/A	N/A	The property between Rt. 9 and Old Saratoga Road will continue to be undeveloped.

Preferred Master Plan Alternative

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
Access/Entrance	<p>Sherman Island Boat Launch Parking - Improve existing parking (Phase 1). (See also Palmertown Alternatives).</p> <p>Expand Parking (Phase 2).</p> <p>Spier Falls Boat Launch Parking - Minor expansion of parking (Phase 1).</p> <p>"Pull-Offs" - Improve existing "pull-offs" (Phase 1).</p> <p>Potter's Point - Provide boat access (Phase 1).</p> <p>Develop road access as camping facilities are developed (Phase 2 and 3).</p> <p>Corinth Road Via National Grid land - Explore potential for a boat launch site (Phase 3).</p>	<p>Hawk Road (South Entrance) - Use an existing open space for parking 10+ cars or 5 car/trailers.</p> <p>Add a second gate, sign on Hawk road and trailhead kiosk (Phase 1).</p> <p>Improve road to accommodate 1 lane of traffic with pullouts/pass by areas (Phase 2).</p> <p>Corinth Road (North Entrance) - Status Quo - No formal access is provided. (Phases 1 and 2).</p> <p>Use an existing entrance road on National Grid land (Phase 3).</p>	<p>Maintain parking and access as it currently exists (with the following enhancements).</p> <p>Place signs at the park boundary as it crosses Spier Falls Road that say "Entering Moreau Lake State Park".</p> <p>Spring Trail Trailhead - Widen an existing gated road to add 5 parking spaces for Spring Trail access.</p> <p>Western Ridge Trail Trailhead - Create and develop the trailhead parking area (entrance is along the east-west running segment of Spier Falls Rd.).</p> <p>Cottage Park Trail Trailhead - Expand parking at the Sherman Island Boat Launch for trail users. Request that the County place courtesy "Trail Crossing" signs</p>	<p>Reduce the speed limit on Old Saratoga Road, within the park boundaries, to 30 mph, place signs identifying the park at park boundaries on Old Saratoga Road and improve signing on Route 9.</p> <p>Improve Existing Entrance - Old Saratoga Road will be widened north of the park entrance to create a right-turn/stacking lane for vehicles entering the park.</p> <p>Provide an additional parking area between the park office and the recycling area (see Camping Alternatives).</p>

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
			along Spier Falls Road. Coordinate with other boat launch improvements discussed in the Hudson River Corridor Management Area alternatives.	
Trail Activities - Water Trail	<p>Promote the segment of river through the park as a water trail or paddlers trail through the development of promotional materials (i.e. brochures and maps that highlight the water trail and its amenities).</p> <p>Improve and expand the existing facilities and coordinate with the appropriate power company regarding improvements and expansions.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Trail Activities - Saratoga Co-Warren Co Connection	<p>Status Quo - No connector trails, bridges or routes will be constructed that connect the Saratoga County side with the Warren County side.</p> <p>Identify trail heads that are water accessible and</p>	See Hudson River Corridor.	N/A	N/A

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
	connect the Warren County side to the Saratoga County side via crossing the river by boat.			
Trail Activities - Biking (including Mountain Biking)	N/A	Designate and improve existing paths/routes to create a looped biking trail system. (See also Access Alternatives).	Status Quo - Trail maintenance and improvements will continue. Designate and improve appropriate paths/routes for use as biking trails. Develop new routes for biking trails.	Designate and develop new biking trails as a result of multiple use trail development.. Improve bike parking areas and bike racks. Improve safety, education and enforcement including signage and brochures. Develop a bike path or paths. Cooperate with local governments in developing connections to regional bicycle routes.
Trail Activities - Hiking	N/A	Designate and improve existing paths/routes to create a looped hiking trail system. (See also Access Alternatives).	Status Quo - Trail maintenance and improvements will continue. Develop and designate new hiking trails.	Develop new hiking trails as a result of multiple use trail development.
Trail Activities - Interpretive Trails	N/A	Status Quo - Trails will not be inventoried or designated as interpretation trails.	Status Quo - Trails will not be inventoried or designated as interpretation trails.	Improve interpretive material and signage along the designated Nature Trail.

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
				Improve the Nature Trail to make it accessible to persons with disabilities.
Trail Activities - Equestrian	N/A	Designate and improve existing paths/routes to create a looped equestrian trail system. (see also Access Alternatives).	Do not permit equestrian use within this management area.	Specifically designate trails from the inventory of existing trails for equestrian use. Consider the designation of the Nature Trail and segments of the Lakeside Trail. Provide a parking lot for equestrian trailers at a convenient location that provides access to existing trails.
Trail Activities - Snowmobiling	N/A	Designate and improve existing paths/routes to create a looped snowmobile trail system. (See also Access Alternatives).	Not considered appropriate for this management area.	Status Quo - Snowmobiles will not be permitted in this area of the park. Winter use by snowshoers and cross-country skiers is well established.
Trail Activities - Cross-Country Skiing	N/A	Permit cross-country skiing on a designated multiple use, looped trail system. Cross-country skiing will be permitted on trails used by other winter users (i.e. snowshoers and snowmobiles).	Status Quo - Trail maintenance and improvements will continue. Trails will continue to be ungroomed. Develop and designate new cross-country ski trails.	Status Quo - Cross-country skiing will continue on ungroomed park roads and trails.

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
Trail Activities - Snowshoeing	N/A	Permit snowshoeing on a designated multiple use, looped trail system. Snowshoeing will be permitted on trails used by other winter users (i.e. cross-country skiers and snowmobiles).	Status Quo - Trail maintenance and improvements will continue. Develop and designate new cross-country ski trails to be shared with other user groups..	Status Quo - Snowshoeing will continue on ungroomed park roads and trails.
Trail Activities - Trails Plan	N/A	Develop a trails plan to expand the trail system. (Phase 1).	N/A	N/A
Birding/Wildlife Observation	Place kiosks and informational panels at trail heads and boat launch sites that provide information on the birds and wildlife in the park.	Provide information at parking areas via the trailhead kiosk. (See Access Alternatives).	Maintain scenic overlook areas and provide brochures, check lists and other literature about the birds and wildlife within the park. Use the Park Office or Nature Center to distribute this information. Place kiosks at trailheads that provide information on the birds and wildlife of the park.	Status Quo - Opportunities for patrons to access the trails and overlooks for the purposes of bird/wildlife observation will be maintained. No specific observation sites or areas will be identified. Brochures and bird check lists will continue to be available from the Park Office or Nature Center. Place kiosks with informational panels at trailhead locations.

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
Scenic Areas and Vistas	<p>Identify and map locations along Spier Falls Road that provide access to scenic views of the river and the Warren County shoreline.</p> <p>Develop brochures and maps that identify locations of scenic views.</p>	<p>Maintain existing vistas at the Hawk Road parking areas. (See Access Alternatives).</p> <p>Identify any additional scenic vista areas as part of the Trails Plan process (See Trails Alternatives).</p>	<p>Status Quo - Scenic overlooks will continue to be accessed via the ridge trails and identified on maps.</p> <p>Maintain scenic overlook areas and provide brochures, bird and wildlife checklists, and other literature about the scenic views.</p> <p>Use the Park Office or Nature Center to distribute this information.</p>	<p>Status Quo - Continue to promote development and other actions that are compatible with the character of the park and/or will preserve the scenic qualities of Moreau Lake and its shoreline. Benches and picnic tables are placed throughout the day use and campground areas and along the Nature Trail.</p>
Interpretive Programs	<p>Continue guided hikes and boat tours conducted by Park staff.</p> <p>Develop additional interpretive panels specific to wildlife, natural features, the history of Spier Falls Dam and other interpretive themes.</p>	<p>Provide guided hikes that include interpretive elements and are conducted by Park Staff.</p> <p>Develop kiosks and informational panels to place at trailheads and parking areas.</p>	<p>Status Quo - Continue guided hikes that include interpretive elements conducted by park staff.</p> <p>Develop partnerships with volunteer organizations to conduct guided hikes and interpretive programs.</p> <p>Install kiosks and informational panels at trailheads, parking areas and other appropriate sites.</p>	<p>Status Quo - Continue to use the Nature Center as the programming "headquarters".</p> <p>Provide more and a greater variety of programs. Expand programming through outreach to the community including off-site, public education programs offered at schools and other locations.</p> <p>Develop brochures and guides for interpreting</p>

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
				<p>such themes as wildlife, birds, ecology and history to be distributed at the Park Office or Nature Center.</p> <p>Develop partnerships with volunteer organizations to conduct guided hikes and interpretive programs.</p> <p>Install kiosks and informational panels at trailheads and parking areas.</p> <p>Update and improve signage along the Nature Trail and other appropriate areas.</p> <p>Develop a winter programming space.</p>
Camping and Cottages/Cabins-Water-accessed Camping	<p>As necessary, expand primitive camping experiences for canoeists, river travelers and hikers in designated areas along the north shoreline of the Hudson River. (All Phases)</p> <p>Improve the existing sites. (All Phases)</p> <p>Designate additional</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
	primitive, water-accessed campsites at the "Potter's Point" area. (Phase 1)			
Camping and Cottages/Cabins - Backpack/Primitive Camping	N/A	Status Quo - Facilities of this type are not provided. Identify any potential sites through the Trails Plan process. (See Trails Alternatives).	Designate a limited number of sites, with or without a lean-to available, along trails for trail users to camp while using the trails within the park.	N/A
Camping and Cottages/Cabins- Tent/Trailer	Develop a tent/trailer campground at the "Potter's Point" area. (Phase 2)	Status Quo - Facilities of this type are not provided.	Status Quo - There are no camping facilities of this type.	<p>Upgrade the existing campground. Include measures to meet accessibility standards, to decrease overuse impacts and improve shower and comfort facilities.</p> <p>Upgrade the electric service in the campground allowing for potential future electrification of selected sites or loops.</p> <p>Improve camper sanitation and solid waste disposal facilities by improving recycling facilities and relocating the dumping station away from existing campsites.</p> <p>Expand camper amenities which may include:</p>

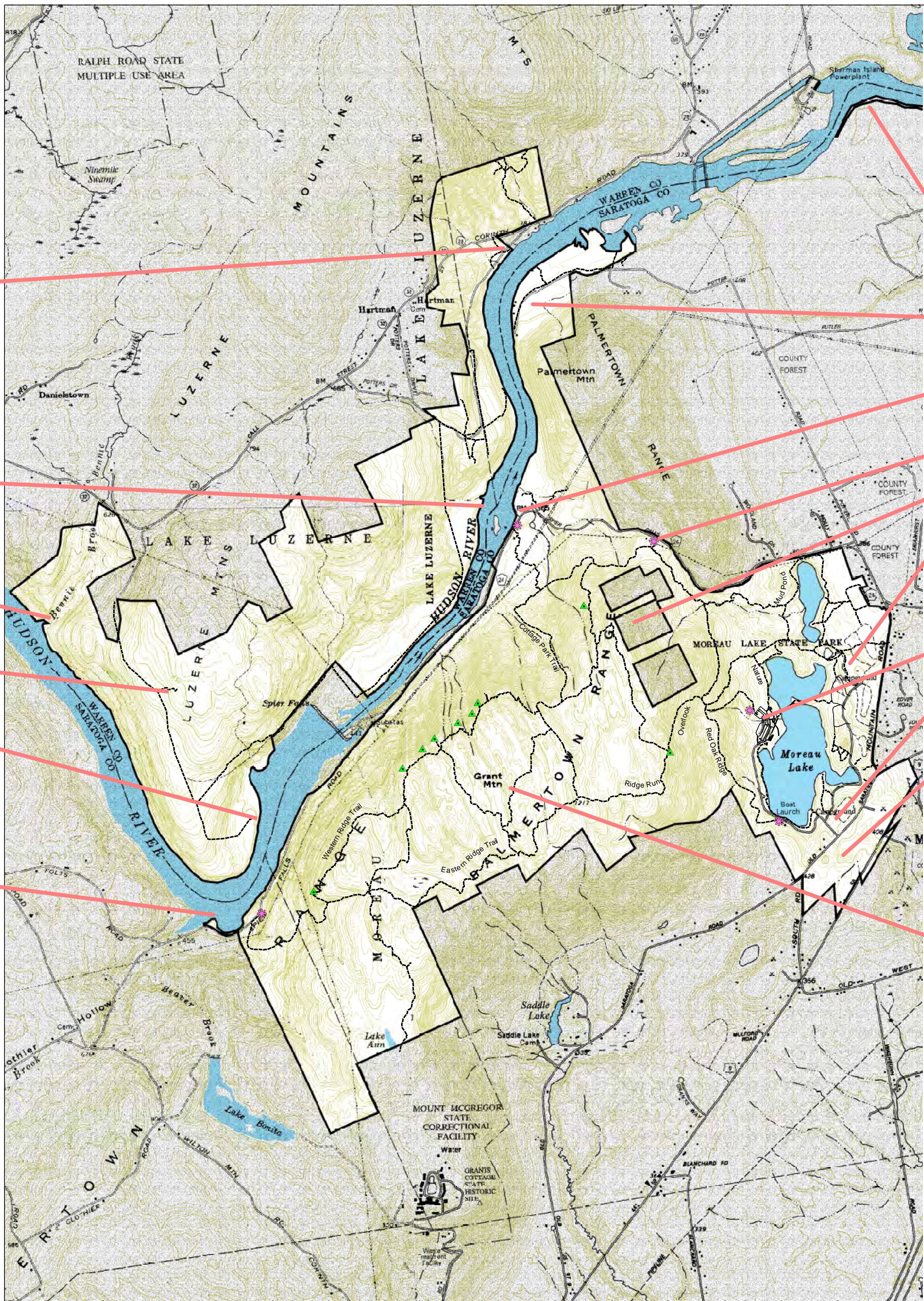
Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
				<p>laundry facilities, a camper store, a recreation building, play areas or a playground, and business nodes.</p> <p>Create new RV camping loops in the property located between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road that offer utility hookups.</p>
Camping and Cottages/Cabins- Cabins/Cottages	Develop a cottage/cabin colony in the "Potter's Point" area. (Phase 3)	Status Quo - Facilities of this type are not provided.	Status Quo - There are no camping facilities of this type.	Status Quo - Continue the use of Lake Shore Cottage. New cabin development will be directed elsewhere in the park.
Camping and Cottages/Cabins - Group Camping	N/A	N/A	Status Quo - There are no camping facilities of this type.	Improve existing group camping area and include a new parking area for six cars. Create a six car parking area off the service road.
Camping and Cottages/Cabins - third Car/Overflow Camper Parking	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>Provide three-car parking lots within each camping loop.</p> <p>Provide a centralized lot for 20+/- cars between the park office and the recycling center.</p> <p>Provide a closer six-car parking area for group</p>

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
				campers.
Hunting	<p>Status Quo - Small and big game hunting will be maintained as a permitted activity on park lands.</p> <p>Expand and modify no hunting/safety zones as new facilities are developed within the Park.</p>	<p>Status Quo - Small and big game hunting will be maintained as a permitted activity on park lands.</p> <p>Expand and modify no hunting/safety zones as new facilities are developed within the Park.</p>	<p>Status Quo - Maintain hunting as a permitted activity on park lands and maintain existing access.</p>	<p>Status Quo - Hunting is a permitted activity on park lands. Current access will be maintained.</p>
Fishing	<p>Status Quo - Provide appropriate parking, shore and boat access to the Hudson River.</p> <p>Continue to allow fishing in the Hudson River.</p>	N/A	<p>Status Quo - Lake Ann is not accessible from park trails at this time.</p>	<p>Status Quo - Appropriate parking, shore and boat access will be provided. Fishing from non-motorized boat and shore is allowed. Ice fishing is allowed when conditions permit. Continue to work with the County and DEC regarding the stocking program.</p>
Swimming -	<p>Status Quo - Swimming is not permitted in the Hudson River.</p>	N/A	<p>Status Quo - Swimming is not permitted in Lake Ann.</p>	<p>Status Quo - The current operating hours and capacity of the beach will be maintained.</p>

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
Swimming - Bathhouse	N/A	N/A	N/A	Upgrade and improve the functionality of the bathhouse.
Picnicking	<p>Improve the Sherman Island Boat Launch as a picnic area that includes picnic sites/tables and comfort facilities.</p> <p>Improve existing pull-off parking areas.</p>	Provide picnic tables at appropriate locations.	Status Quo - There is no designated picnic area. Informal picnics will continue.	<p>Group Picnicking - Replace a rental tent near the volley ball court with a small pavilion.</p> <p>Create a new picnic area with shelters on the Rt. 9 lands.</p> <p>Picnic Area - Status Quo - Individual/family picnic sites with grills will continue to be offered within the day use area.</p> <p>Create additional picnic areas on the Rt. 9 lands.</p>
Boating/Boat Launching	<p>Spier Falls Boat Launch - Status Quo - Current operation and condition of the launch will be maintained.</p> <p>Expand parking by one or two spaces.</p> <p>Sherman Island Boat Launch -Improve and expand the launch ramp to provide a two-lane concrete ramp.</p>	N/A	Status Quo - Lake Ann is not accessible from park trails at this time.	<p>Moreau Lake Boat Launch - Maintain operation of the boat launch area with existing parking.</p> <p>Create a boat storage area, such as boat racks for both campers and permit holders.</p>

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
	<p>Improve comfort facilities.</p> <p>Expand picnic sites (tables and grills).</p> <p>Improve and expand day use parking.</p> <p>Corinth Boat Launch – See Warren County Access.</p>			
Administration/ Maintenance	<p>Status Quo - No Park maintenance structure will be provided. Maintenance by Park staff will be coordinated from the maintenance facility in the Lake Recreation Area. Park Police will continue periodic patrols.</p> <p>Establish partnerships with friends groups, local governments and or non-profit organizations to assist with maintenance and security. (Phase 1)</p> <p>Provide appropriate signage.</p>	<p>Status Quo - No park structures are provided. Park Police will continue periodic patrols.</p> <p>Establish partnerships with friends groups, local governments and/or non-profit organizations to assist with maintenance and security.</p> <p>Provide appropriate signage.</p>	Status Quo - Continue current maintenance and administration procedures.	Relocate the maintenance area/facility, reuse the site for other programming needs and stabilize the remaining historic structure for future reuse. (It is suggested that the maintenance area/facility be relocated to the former gravel mine on the Rt. 9 lands.) (Phase 1)
Property between Rt. 9 and Old Saratoga Road	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>Picnicking - Create picnic areas with and without shelters.</p> <p>Camping - Create two RV</p>

Activity/Category	Hudson River Corridor	Warren County	Palmertown Mtn.	Lake Recreation Area
				<p>camping loops that offer utility hookups.</p> <p>Access/Park Entrance – Widen Old Saratoga Road on the Route 9 property side of the road north of the park entrance to create a right turning lane. The southwest bound traffic lane will become the turning lane, the existing northeast traffic lane will become the southwest bound through traffic lane and the new lane on the Route 9 property would become the northeast bound through traffic lane.</p> <p>Maintenance Area/Facility - Relocate the facility to the former gravel mine area, reuse the previous site for other programming needs and stabilize the remaining structure.</p>



Corinth Road: Potential River Access
 - Coordinate w/ Town of Queensbury, National Grid, & Warren County
 - Canoe / Cartop Launch only

Warren County Management Area:
 Develop Trails Plan
 - Activities to include hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, equestrian & other winter uses

Hartman Creek: River Access Campsites
 - 2 Existing sites
 - Consider adding pit privies, other amenities as needed or if number of sites is expanded.

Bennett Brook: River Access Campsites
 - 2 Existing sites
 - Consider addition of pit privies, other amenities as needed or if number of sites is expanded.

Hawk Road: Proposed Trailhead
 - Parking for 10 cars or 5 car/trailers
 - Install new gate & barrier
 - Provide 4-season access

Murray Foundation: River Access Campsites
 - Potential for 2 to 4 campsites

Hudson River Watertrail
 - Coordinate with appropriate organizations to establish and expand a system of boat launches, portage trails, water-access campsites, and informational kiosks.

Spier Falls Boat Launch
 - Improve parking area

Bird Conservation Area
 - Establish a Bird Conservation Area in accordance with BCA guidelines.
Natural Heritage Area
 - Establish a Natural Heritage Area covering the contiguous Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest area.
Park Preservation Area
 - Designate the Palmetton Mountain Management Area as a Park Preservation Area

Interpretation:
 - Continue to develop brochures, kiosks, and programs for interpreting the natural and cultural resources of Moreau Lake State Park

Hudson Shoreline
 - Retain as buffer and habitat

Potters Point
 - River-access camping (near-term)
 - 40-site tent/trailer camping (long-term)
 - Cabin colony development (long-term)
 - Coordinate access issues w/ Town of Moreau
 - Proposed Saratoga County raw water intake

Sherman Island Boat Launch
 - Upgrade gravel launch ramp to concrete
 - Expand picnic opportunities to the north
 - Expand day use / picnic area / trailhead parking

Western Ridge Trailhead
 - Develop new trailhead parking on south side of Spier Falls Rd

Private Inholdings & Adjacent Parcels
 - Pursue acquisitions from willing sellers as funding and other legal constraints allow

Campground
 - Rehabilitate comfort stations & showers
 - Expand camper recreation facilities (playground, volleyball, etc.)
 - Evaluate & rehabilitate sites which show intensive wear & tear.
 - Improve pedestrian & bicycle circulation and safety
 - Relocate Dump Station

Day Use Area
 - Improve parking areas
 - Rehabilitate bathhouse and comfort station
 - Improve picnic and recreation facilities
 - Continue to improve Nature Center
 - Construct small pavilion near volleyball court

Entrance / Park Office
 - Work w/ Town to realign Old Saratoga Road and add a right turn lane.
 - Expand parking near Park Office.
 - Construct Warming Hut for winter users
 - Relocate Maintenance Area & reuse for Day Use

Routes / Property
 - Develop two new picnic shelter areas
 - Develop two campground loops with water and electric hook-ups. (40 RV sites)
 - Construct new Maintenance Area and Dump Station

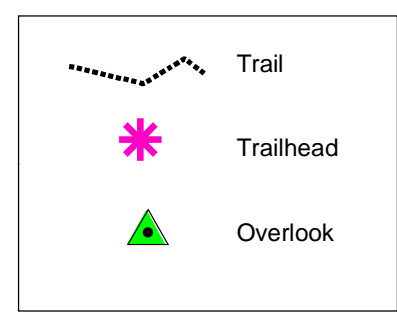
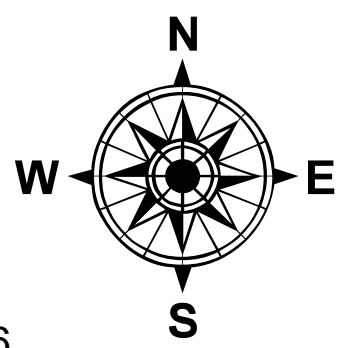
Rehabilitate electric supply and distribution system throughout "Lake Recreation Area"

Accessibility
 - Continue to upgrade facilities and programs to meet ADA requirements

Palmetton Range
 - Improve existing multi-use trail system
 - Consider establishing primitive campsites, possibly including lean-tos
 - Construct a new 5-car parking area at the Spring Trailhead

Hunting
 - Continue to be permitted in the Palmetton Range and Warren County areas of the park, in accordance with DEC regulations.
 - Continue to be prohibited in the "Safety Zone" surrounding the developed recreation areas around Moreau Lake.

Winter Uses
 - The park will continue to encourage winter activities such as snowshoeing, XC skiing, and ice fishing
 - Develop and expand winter interpretive and recreational programs
 - Construct Warming Hut and winter parking lot near park entrance.



Moreau Lake State Park

Final Master Plan



November 7, 2006

Park Office:
 605 Old Saratoga Rd
 Gansevoort, NY 12831
 (518) 793-0511

Saratoga/Capital Regional Office:
 19 Roosevelt Dr
 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
 (518) 584-2000

VI. Environmental Impacts and Mitigation

Introduction

Consistent with the intent of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR), environmental factors were considered in evaluating the plan alternatives and in selecting the preferred plan. This chapter is a summary of potential impacts associated with the preferred alternative. Environmental information useful in understanding the type and extent of potential impacts can be found in Chapter II - Environmental Setting and Chapter IV - Analysis of Alternatives. Chapter IV includes identification and analysis of potential environmental effects associated with alternatives. This chapter (Chapter VI) contains a summary of the potential impacts identified in Chapter IV. The focus of this Chapter is a description of the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Master Plan, which is described in detail in Chapter V.

Impacts of Alternatives

In Chapter IV, Analysis and Alternatives, the park was divided into 4 management areas; Hudson River Corridor, Warren County, Palmertown Mountain and Lake Recreation. These areas are shown on Map 13 in Chapter IV. Alternative management and development directions were developed for each area using information developed on existing conditions, the analysis of recommended directions for activities and constraint and considerations identified in the resources analysis. The preferred alternative for the entire park (i.e. the Master Plan) consists of the best alternative identified for each management area. The Preferred Master Plan Alternative Section of Chapter IV summarizes the management area alternatives.

Much of the information on the environmental impacts of alternative actions is discussed in the analysis of the alternatives section. The following is a summary of the findings from the impact analysis of each of the alternatives for each management area which make up the preferred alternative and the Status Quo alternative

Status Quo Alternative

This alternative consists of the current facilities, programs and practices as described in the Environmental Setting Chapter. Under this alternative, the current resource protection, operation, and facility management practices would continue. The increasing demands on the park will not be met or mitigated nor would the resources be adequately protected. Identification and implementation of protection and use guidelines for the newly acquired parklands would be deferred until a future time.

The Status Quo alternative would not result in any additional adverse environmental impacts. The potential for long-term indirect adverse environmental impacts is likely, however, since there would be no plan to guide use, protection and development of this area. As more park visitors seek to use the park, additional demands will be placed on its natural, cultural and recreational resources. Without the guidance provided by the Master Plan, which directs more intensive use and development toward areas with higher capacity for

such use (and away from the more sensitive areas of the Park), the potential for adverse impacts on environmental resources increases.

Preferred Alternative and the Master Plan.

Overview

The preferred alternative is the compilation of the preferred recreation activity and resource stewardship options for the identified management areas. This compilation was subject to a final evaluation (or synthesis) to assure that there was consistency among the various alternatives. In addition, some changes have been made based on comments received on the Draft Plan/DEIS. This final assessment resulted in the identification of the Master Plan (Chapter V). The Master Plan provides considerable recreational and resource protection benefits. The plan also identifies potential adverse impacts, both short and long term, as well as ways to, if not eliminate them, minimize them to the fullest extent possible through appropriate mitigation measures. From a long-term perspective, implementation of the park master plan will result in a beneficial environmental impact by insuring that the most sensitive areas of the Park will be identified, monitored and provided appropriate stewardship.

Potential Environmental Impacts associated with Implementation of the Master Plan

Transportation: Access & Traffic

Implementation of the Master Plan will affect access to the park and traffic patterns in the vicinity of the park along Old Saratoga Road. In the Hudson River, Warren County and Palmertown Mountain areas, existing parking areas will be improved or expanded and new parking/access points will be developed. These improvements will increase parking and provide safe access to these areas of the park.

In the Lake Recreation area, the Master Plan proposes significant improvements to the existing park access off of Old Saratoga Road. There are several problems with the current configuration. The short length of the entrance road from Old Saratoga Road to the contact station results in significant back up and waiting times for patrons entering the park during peak use times. Campers needing to register have limited space to park. In addition, stacking occurs because patrons are willing to wait outside the park entrance along Old Saratoga Road until someone leaves the park in order to obtain entry. Currently on busy weekends, traffic backs up along Old Saratoga Road as vehicles wait to enter the park. Local traffic must drive around the waiting line of vehicles.

To allievate backups and stacking along the road, the Plan proposes that Old Saratoga Road be widened by adding a lane on the south side of the road and then using the current north side lane as the stacking lane/right turn lane. This will provide safer conditions for both the patrons waiting to enter the Park and the through traffic traveling along Old Saratoga Road. In addition, a camper parking area will be constructed next to the park office which will move the waiting camper vehicles off the entrance road. These proposed changes will also result in safer traffic flow in the vicinity of the park entrance.

Recreation/Open Space

The implementation of the Moreau Lake State Park Master Plan will result in substantial beneficial recreation and open space impacts. The Plan provides for additional and improved camping opportunities, an improved trail network, better access to open space and scenic areas in the park, and nature and cultural resource interpretive and educational programs.

Future land acquisition would provide additional open space for the park, improved trail locations and linkages to other regional trail systems with benefits to open space and resource protection.

A report, *Assessment of Recreational Impacts of Campgrounds at Moreau Lake State Park* (Kisby, 2000) summarized research on camper impacts and evaluated several of the campsites in the park. This report supports the need identified in the Master Plan for rehabilitation of the existing camping area in the Lake Recreation Area which will improve conditions and bring the campground up to ADA standards. The report will also be a useful reference in designing and evaluation improvement to the new camping areas. Most of the individual sites in the existing areas show signs of overuse such as pad creep, soil compaction, scared trees and erosion. In addition, camping loops are crisscrossed with foot paths created by campers which also lead to soil compaction, loss of vegetation and erosion. Each camping loop will be evaluated for improvements and each site assessed to determine how it can be improved. Comfort stations and access paths will be evaluated for ADA compliance and planned to address "desired paths" created by campers. Techniques that will be considered at individual sites will include site edging, added plantings for screening, and creation of buddy sites. Camper education will also be an important component. This work will be phased and monitored and the various management strategies used will be evaluated for effectiveness. Tent sites within the group camping area will also be improved. Tent pads will be added to define the tent camp area. In addition, techniques mentioned above such as site edging and additional plantings will also be considered.

Plans for the new camping areas proposed in the Potter's Point area and in the area between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road will also include techniques such as site edging to minimize potential use impacts to the greatest extent possible.

Water Resources

Surface Water:

There will be a minimal increase in boater use of the Hudson River as a result of implementation of the Master Plan. Site constraints limit expansion of the existing boat launch sites. Within the Park, the Hudson River is defined by impoundments created by the existing dams. The Spier Falls impoundment is bounded by the Corinth Dam to the west and the Spier Falls Dam to the east. This area of the Hudson is accessed only from the Spier Falls boat launch area. The small 5-6 space parking area at the Spier Falls site will be improved to add only a couple additional parking spaces. The Sherman Island impoundment is bounded by the Spier Falls Dam to the west and the Sherman Island Dam to the east. This area is accessed only from the Sherman Island boat launch area which consists of a two lane gravel launch that is proposed in the plan to be improved as a textured concrete launch. These improvements will result in increased efficiency of launches and retrievals. The existing gravel parking area next to the launch has a current capacity of 15 vehicle/trailers and will not be

expanded. A canoe access point for campers at Potter's Point and a small car-top launch in the area off of Corinth Road would also provide access to the the Sherman Island impoundment and are the only additional access points proposed in the Plan. The development of the car-top launch off Corinth Road is proposed for later implementation phases and will occur only after public access rights have been negotiated with National Grid.

Improvements to the Sherman Island boat launch, development of a canoe access at Potter's Point and the possible car-top launch off Corinth Road in Warren County will require consultation with NYS DEC and possibly with the US Army Corps of Engineers. OPRHP will consult with both agencies as plans develop.

There will also be modest increases in use of Moreau Lake including swimming, non-motorized boating and fishing. The Master Plan calls for improvements to existing facilities in the Lake recreation Area; however, overall use will not significantly increase. All work in the area of the Lake will include erosion and sediment control measures as part of their design and implementation. This includes the rehabilitation of the camping areas, reconfiguration of the entrance area and improvements to trails.

The water level of Moreau Lake fluctuates naturally and is dependent on weather conditions. The lake receives water by direct precipitation, surface runoff and underground flow; it loses water by evaporation, transpiration, surface overflow and subsurface outflow. There is an outlet control structure at the south end of the lake that controls overflow and protects adjacent property within the floodplain of Moreau Lake. Water levels will be measured yearly to monitor for significant drops in water level. This monitoring along with routine monitoring of water quality will provide data for the agency to address any problems that may occur.

Wetlands:

The Park contains several good examples of wetland community types which contribute to its overall biodiversity. In particular, there are examples of common deep emergent marsh and shrub swamp communities which are part of the system of lakes and ponds around Moreau Lake. These wetlands are important interpretive resources as part of the park's nature programs. In addition, a less common wetland community complex consisting of the bog lake known as Lake Anne, a small dwarf shrub bog and a 3-acre Highbush blueberry bog thicket was also found within the park. None of the park's wetlands will be changed or affected by implementation of the Master Plan.

Biological Resources/Ecology

Overall, the Master Plan will have a positive impact on the natural resources within the Park. Limited new development is proposed in the large forested area along the Hudson River. Direct impacts associated with proposed improvements such as the cabin/camping area, trails, trailhead parking areas, etc. will be minimal since the proposed improvements have been sited in areas with previous development, limited environmental sensitivity and which generally possess accessibility to, and use of, existing infrastructure. Improvements to the boat launch areas along the Hudson River and new trail access areas will require little vegetation clearing and will not affect any rare plants or animals found in the park. Preparation of a Trail Plan (including primitive camping) for the Warren County Area of the park as well as plans for the proposed development of a picnic area and/or car-top boat launch off Corinth Road in the Warren County area will require additional supplemental

environmental review. In addition, each of these proposals will be designed so as to require minimal vegetation clearing and the evaluation of potential impacts to any rare plants or animals.

Development of camping in the Potter's Point area encompasses an eight acre area which will require thinning of trees. The cabin area will also require some clearing of trees and shrubby vegetation. This area does not affect any significant ecological communities or rare plants or animals. During the detailed design phase, each cabin and campsite will be analyzed to assure that only the minimum amount of vegetation is removed. This area was selected for camping/cabins because it had previously been used for these purposes and the design will make use of existing cleared areas. In addition, the design will factor in techniques to minimize user impacts such as pad creep and vegetation damage. There will potential impacts due to the expansion/improvements to the existing access road. This will include some tree removal and vegetaion clearing in order to create a two lane access road. The plans for the road will be designed to assure that the minimum amount of vegetation is removed and appropriate erosion and sement control measures are in place.

Within the Lake Recreation Area, the Master Plan proposes rehabilitation of the existing camping loops, construction of a warming hut/shower building and new parking lot near the park office, relocation of the contact station, maintenance area and the dump station and construction of new picnic areas and camping loops. One goal of the rehabilitation of the existing camping area will be to protect existing vegetation and add vegetation to the camp sites. With the exception of the new campground and picnic area, all new development has been located in existing cleared or previously disturbed areas. For example, the maintenance area will be located in a former gravel mining area.

The proposed new development in the area between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road will require vegetation removal. The new picnic area, camping loops, road network and dump station will affect approximately 15 acres. The picnic area, road and dump station will require clearing of approximately 7 acres of trees and shrubs. Some of the area will be revegetated with lawn and landscape plantings. The campsite area will require clearing of trees and shrubby vegetation. As with the Potter's Point area, this are does not affect any significant ecological communities or rare plants or animals. The design will minimize vegetation removal and factor in techniques to minimize user impacts such as pad creep and vegetation damage.

All new plantings in all areas of the Park will use native, non-invasive plants. In addition, wherever appropriate, non-native and/or invasive plants will be removed and replaced.

The large expanses of unfragmented forest in the park provide significant bird habitat. Recognizing the importance of these areas to providing habitat, a large portion of Moreau Lake State Park has been proposed for designation as a NYS Bird Conservation Area (BCA)(refer to Map 14). A Management Guidance Summary (MGS) has been prepared for the BCA which identifies operation and management considerations relating to protection of birds and bird habitat in the park. In particular, the Bald Eagle, a federal and state listed threatened species, uses the Hudson River below the Spiers Falls dam during the winter. During mid-winter of 2004-2005, park staff, in coordination with the NYS DEC Endangered Species Unit, monitored Bald Eagles in the Park along the Hudson River. At least 10 eagles were observed between Sherman Island Boat Launch and the Spier Falls Boat Launch.

Winter trail use, including snowmobiling, has been and existing activity within the portion of the Park that is in Warren County. This use is local in nature and low in numbers. Vehicles and trailers park along the shoulders of Hawk Road. The proposed plan will provide a parking area for 10 cars and 5 car/trailers that will accommodate those few users currently parking along Hawk Road.

Presently, the informal trail use will remain the same. The Master Plan calls for a trails plan for the Warren County portion of the Park. This trails plan will consider the creation of a looped trail system that can be used by all trail users, including snowmobiles, cross-country skiers and snowshoers. This trails plan will be subject to supplemental environmental review. The trails plan will provide improved recreation experiences for snowmobilers and other trail users. However, this trails plan is limited to the park and will not be connected to or part of any larger trail snowmobile trail system.

It is OPRHP's understanding that wintering Bald Eagles adapt to existing environmental conditions including recreation uses. Thus, the Bald Eagles and existing snowmobile use have co-existed for many years. Since the Master Plan does not specifically propose an increase in snowmobile use, the current coexistence of eagles and snowmobilers is expected to continue at the same level.

Most of the existing snowmobile trail use on the Warren County side is set back about 1/8th of a mile from the shoreline. While there is a small segment of the trail system that comes as close as 85 feet from the shoreline, the continuation of snowmobile use as has occurred over many years is not expected to impact the numbers or behaviors of wintering Bald Eagles. The Agency will continue to monitor Bald Eagle activity in the Park along with snowmobile and other trail uses within the Warren County Management Area. OPRHP will consult with the Endangered Species Unit at the Department of Environmental Conservation on all matters pertaining to Bald Eagles, use and protection.

As identified in the MGS, potential impacts to the Bald Eagles from any new activity, in particular winter use, along the Hudson River will be evaluated as plans are developed. As noted above, this will include the Trail Plan for the Warren County area. OPRHP will also continue winter monitoring and will consult with NYS DEC staff on any new activities planned in the Hudson River area.

In addition to the proposed BCA designation, the importance of the natural resources within Moreau Lake State Park are also recognized with the proposed designation of portions of the park as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA) and as a Park Preservation Area. The Master Plan proposes that the hemlock-northern hardwood forest and the calcareous talus slope woodland communities within the Warren County and Palmertown Mountain Areas be designated as an NHA. The Palmertown Mountain Area of the Park is proposed for designation as a Park Preservation Area recognizing the area contains a significant ecological and scenic resources.

Cultural Resources

Archeological surveys of Moreau Lake State Park indicate that the potential for the park to have prehistoric cultural resources is moderate to high. Therefore, all projects proposed in the park will require additional review to determine if there will be potential impacts to cultural resources. The archeological surveys for the park will be reviewed and park/regional staff will consult with OPRHP's Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau to determine if

any additional testing is required. If National Register eligible prehistoric or historic-period cultural resources are potentially impacted by projects within the Park, an evaluation of those effects would be made. If adverse effects are identified, measures would be taken to redesign projects in order to avoid the resources, or mitigation measures would be adopted. Mitigation might include archaeological data recovery and/or architectural recordation, and appropriate related research, interpretation and preservation programs.

The park also contains several structures or the remains of structures pre-dating 1950 within the park. The only structure potentially affected by the implementation of the master plan is Schoolhouse No. 7 which is located within the existing maintenance area. The Master Plan proposed reusing this structure as an interpretive center. The building has already had some alteration as a result of its proximity to the maintenance area. Use as an interpretive center should not have any significant adverse impacts.

Scenic and Aesthetic Resources

As noted previously, Moreau Lake State Park is to be classified as a Scenic Park under the State Parkland Classification System. For this reason, maintenance of the scenic and natural character of the park has been a primary consideration of the Master Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement. Overall, the Master Plan will have beneficial impacts on the scenic resources of the Park. The Park will continue to provide a scenic backdrop for visitors using the trails and recreation areas. New facilities will be sited in such a way that they take maximum advantage of existing scenic features such as lakes and wooded areas, yet will be located so that they do not intrude on currently undeveloped viewsheds. Finally, in addition to encouraging the preservation of scenic resources within the park, it is also a goal to preserve and enhance views from the park. Park management shall encourage relationships with surrounding property owners – internal and external to the park – to maintain and enhance the scenic quality of their properties.

Public Health

Public health and safety are an important element in park operations. Facility design and construction will meet applicable health and safety codes, including compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. OPRHP's Recreation Services program places strong emphasis on visitor safety. For example, lifeguards at State Park beaches must be certified through safety training programs such as Red Cross Advanced First Aid and CPR. In addition there is ongoing monitoring of beach water quality as well as providing safe drinking water.

Unavoidable Adverse Effects

The proposed Master Plan will result in some unavoidable adverse impacts. There will be some minimal permanent loss of pervious soil surface and vegetative cover as a result of improvements to the boat launch sites, the reconfiguration of the entrance area and some improvements to park roads and trails and new camping areas. There is also a small potential for water quality impacts due to increased surface water runoff from impervious areas. These two factors, however, will be monitored by Park personnel and action will be taken, if necessary, to prevent any significant impacts from occurring.

In addition to the impacts outlined above, there will also be temporary adverse air and noise impacts (i.e., fugitive dust, noise from construction machinery, etc.) associated with construction of proposed improvements.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

The planning, development and implementation of a Master Plan for Moreau Lake State Park, including additional infrastructure and a slightly expanded trail system has and will involve the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of public resources in the form of time, labor and materials. It will also require a commitment to the long term operation and maintenance costs of the Park.

Growth Inducement

Implementation of the Moreau Lake State Park Master Plan will result in increased recreational use of the Park. This increased recreational use will be carefully managed in an effort to support the vision and goals established to maintain the quality of the Park's recreation resources, scenic open spaces, and natural habitats. There will be positive, on-going, economic impacts to the communities surrounding Moreau Lake, in the form of increased business investment in the communities. Tourism related expenditures, for activities such as camping, day-use and fishing, are a major element in the economic vitality of localities. Moreau Lake, with its significant natural resources and its location near major interstate, state and county roadways, helps to make this a reality.

Supplemental Environmental Review

Portions of this Final Master Plan/EIS, such as the trails plan, are somewhat general or conceptual. Decisions regarding the type and extent of certain actions will be dependent on the findings from more specific studies or analysis still to be completed. For example, proposed development of a picnic area and car-top boat launch off Corinth Road on the Warren County shore may require site specific traffic analysis in addition to securing rights to access the property. The findings from these site specific evaluations may identify impacts that were not adequately addressed in this plan/EIS. Under such a circumstance, an additional or supplemental environmental review will be required. As part of the Agency's responsibility under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, OPRHP will review proposed implementation projects with respect to consistency with this plan and EIS. Projects found by OPRHP to be consistent with the plan can go forward without any additional review. Other types of proposals may require additional review ranging from completion of an environmental assessment form to perhaps a site specific environmental impact statement.

To assist in this consistency evaluation, the following types of actions have been identified as likely to require additional review under SEQR.

Any new actions not addressed within the Master Plan that do not meet the Type II categories with Part 617, the rules and regulations implementing SEQR;

- Any change from the preferred alternative for recreational and facility elements of the plan which would result in significant environmental impacts;

- Any leases, easement, memoranda of understanding, or other agreements between OPRHP and private entities or other agencies that affect resources in a manner that is not sufficiently addressed in this plan;
- Preparation of a Trail Plan, including primitive camping, for the Warren County Area of the park;
- Development of a picnic area and/or car-top boat launch off Corinth Road in the Warren County area of the Park.
- Any proposal which results from Saratoga County's study of water supply needs that affect state park land.

VII. Comments and Responses

Introduction

This section contains the responses to the comments received by OPRHP on the Draft Master Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Moreau Lake State Park. The Draft Master Plan/DEIS was issued on November 16, 2005. A public hearing was held December 13, 2005 at the Large Group Instruction Room of the South Glens Falls High School in South Glens Falls, NY. The comment period was scheduled to end January 18, 2006, but was extended to March 20, 2006 as a result of requests made at the public hearing. A public information meeting was held February 8, 2006 also at the Large Group Instruction room of the South Glens Falls High School to allow additional comments to be taken.

During the December 13, 2005 public hearing, 24 out of 51 attendees spoke and their comments were recorded. Including the Town Board, 44 people attended the February 8, 2006 public information meeting. A transcript from this meeting was submitted by the Town of Moreau Town Board for inclusion into the comment record. During public comment period for the Draft Plan/DEIS, the Agency received 35 written comment letters. A list of the persons and organizations providing comments is contained at the end of this chapter.

The types of comments received included document editing suggestions, requests for clarification of information presented in the document, and comments related to specific aspects of the plan. All comments were reviewed and are organized by categories. Responses to these comments are found in this section and were considered in the revisions found in this Final Master Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

OPRHP appreciates the time and effort that persons interested in the future of Moreau Lake State Park have invested in their review and comments on the Draft Master Plan/DEIS and their participation in the public hearing.

Response to Comments

This section is organized by category. Following each category heading, there is a summary of the comments received. Following each summarized comment is the Agency's response.

Plan and Process

Comment: Length of Comment Period

A number of comments were received regarding the length of the public comment period; its timing, and a one-month extension that was issued.

Response:

The length of the original comment period was from November 16, 2005 to January 18, 2006 or 64 days. Under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), the minimum requirement for a public review period is 30 days. If a public hearing is held, the public review period must remain open 10 days following the close of the hearing. The Agency typically allows 45 days or more when submitting a Draft Master Plan/DEIS for public review.

In the case of Moreau Lake State Park's Draft Master Plan /DEIS, the comment period was extended an additional 30 days to February 18, 2006 as a result of comments received at the December 13, 2005 public hearing. The Town Board for the Town of Moreau requested an additional extension, to which the Agency agreed and held the comment period open until March 20, 2006.

Comment: Local Notification

Many residents commented that obtaining information about the Plan, process, or public hearing was difficult and that many local residents do not receive the local paper. In addition, it was noted that the Town of Moreau Town Board was not at the Plan's December 13, 2005 public hearing.

Response:

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Town Board for the Town of Moreau was not able to attend the public hearing. To accommodate the Town Board's review of the Draft Plan/DEIS, a public information meeting was held during the comment period and the comment period was extended.

Consistent with SEQRA, the notice of a public hearing was published in a local paper. The Glens Falls POST STAR was chosen as it is the local paper within the area of the Park with the largest circulation. As required by SEQR, the notice appeared in the paper at least 14 days before the hearing. All other notices, including the notice of hearing, were published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin, which is maintained and published by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Agency also mailed information to all people and organizations who had expressed interest in the master plan process in the past. Copies of the Draft Master Plan and Draft EIS were available in the local libraries.

Comment: Local Representation and Advisory Committee Composition

Questions were raised as to who represented the local residents and interest groups on the Advisory Committee. Comments were made about notification of these Advisory Committee meetings and who was invited to attend.

Response:

The Advisory Committee for Moreau Lake State Park was developed shortly following the Public Scoping Meetings in 1998. Individuals and organizations who expressed interest in participating on an Advisory Committee for the plan approached the Agency. While the groups and local government organizations represented on the Committee have not changed since then, personnel changes during the past years did necessitate changing those individuals listed on the Advisory Committee.

A list of current Advisory Committee members is provided in the Plan under the Acknowledgements section. This Advisory Committee includes local government representatives, local residents, businesses, interest groups, and other State and local agencies.

The function of the Advisory Committee was to act as a sounding board for the Planning Team and to serve as an additional method of involving interested parties in the development of the Draft Master Plan to insure that all issues were covered during the Planning Process.

The goal of using an Advisory Committee during any planning process is to provide two-way communication between the Committee Members and the Planning Team. The Agency has made every effort to keep those people on the Moreau Lake State Park Advisory Committee informed and up to date on the progress of the plan. As requested, records of the Advisory Committee Members, meeting notices and invitations, meeting minutes and handouts were sent to the Moreau Town Supervisor, who represented the Town of Moreau on the Advisory Committee.

Comment: Support

General comments of overall support for the entire plan or certain elements of the plan were received, including: trail plans, trail issues and trail activities for the various management areas; the work of current Park management; the extent and features the Park has to offer; the complexities of the Park issues; the time, effort and work that it took to develop the plan; the vision for the Park and the plan goals; and, the balance of development and preservation of Park resources.

Response:

Noted.

Comment: Emergency Services

It was noted that the local Police, Fire and Emergency Service organizations were not consulted during the development of the plan.

Response:

The Police, Fire and Emergency Services were afforded the same notification of all other interest groups. In addition, representatives of each local government were part of the Advisory Committee and thus there was an opportunity for these organizations to confer with OPRHP on issues related to their interests. Several persons pointed to the need for Police, Fire and Emergency Service organizations input related to the proposal to close a portion of Old Saratoga Road and provide park access only. This Final Plan includes the early action and turning lane alternative as the preferred master plan alternative. The Final Plan states that before any future consideration regarding the closure of Old Saratoga Road, a series of detailed studies as well as a supplemental Plan/EIS will be prepared. All emergency organizations will receive all notices pertaining to this effort, if and when it occurs.

Comment: Size of the Park

Questions were raised about how many acres of the Park are located within the Town of Moreau.

Response:

The size of the entire Park as reported in the Draft Master Plan is more than 4,100 acres. The actual figure as of 4/14/06 is 4,184.3; this figure includes only acres owned in fee by OPRHP and DEC. 2,815 acres of the Park are located in Saratoga County and the remaining 1,369 acres are located in Warren County. Of the 2,815 acres in Saratoga County, 2,634 acres are within the Town of Moreau and 181 acres are within the Town of Corinth. In Warren County, 1,159 acres are in the Town of Lake Luzerne and 210 acres are in the Town of Queensbury.

Comment: Taxes

The Town of Moreau lost a couple thousand acres of taxable real property and we asked the State to give us an in-lieu of tax payment and it has fallen on deaf ears. Yet in the Adirondack Park they reimbursed communities on a per acre basis. This is something the Town would like to see worked on.

Response:

Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) are specifically authorized by statute in Real Property Tax Law Section 532. State lands subject to taxes are specifically enumerated in this law. The Agency lacks the statutory authority to pay PILOTs to the Town or County unless they are listed in this law.

Comment: Request for information on the Advisory Committee

The Town Board for the Town of Moreau requested a list of names of individuals on the Advisory Committee, public notices of and/or invitations to Committee meetings, meeting notes and handouts for the Committee meetings.

Response:

The Agency responded to this request and included the above requested information along with a summary of comments received at the December 13, 2005 public hearing. As mentioned earlier, the goal of using an Advisory Committee during a planning process is to provide two-way communication between the Committee Members and the Planning Team. The Agency has made every effort to keep the people on the Moreau Lake State Park Advisory Committee informed and up to date on the progress of the plan. This also included one-on-one meetings and phone calls to various members of the Advisory Committee throughout the planning process.

Comment: Money for Plan Implementation

A question was asked as to whether the State had the money to implement the plan as it is proposed.

Response:

Many of the smaller projects proposed in the Master Plan can be implemented at the Park level such as signage improvements and education/interpretation programs. Major projects for Moreau Lake State Park will be considered along with all other state and regional projects and must compete for limited statewide funding.

Comment: Preparation of the EIS, recommendations and review

The Plan Team was asked to clarify the process of preparing the Final Plan/FEIS, who makes recommendations for the final plan, how are they reviewed and how they get to the Commissioner.

Response:

The Plan Team has listed substantive comments on the Draft Master Plan/Draft EIS and developed responses to those comments. Appropriate changes were also made in the document. A Preliminary Final Master Plan/Final EIS was prepared on the recommendations of the Plan Team. This Preliminary Plan was then submitted to OPRHP Executive Staff for review. The Commissioner has final approval of the content of the Final Master Plan/Final EIS that is released to the public.

Comment: Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

It was noted that nobody from the MPO's are listed on the Advisory Committee. These people should have been at least consulted during the development of the Draft Plan/DEIS to coordinate regional trail network plans.

Response:

OPRHP spoke with Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council (AGFTC) staff, and their bikeway plan was considered in the development of the plan.

Comment: Phasing of the Plan

Explain the phasing of the Route 9 property development, in phase 3, in relation to the closure of Old Saratoga Road in phase 1.

Response:

The closure of Old Saratoga Road is no longer the preferred alternative within the Final Master Plan/FEIS. The Implementation section of Chapter V contains a table that outlines the phasing for plan implementation.

Comment: Local Growth

How has the growth of the Town of Moreau, in regard to the increase in housing developments been considered in the Draft Master Plan/DEIS?

Response:

The increase in growth in the Town was considered in assessing the recreational needs and potential impacts on the Park. The projected growth in housing within the Town, especially within the vicinity of the Park, will create additional demand for recreational opportunity. Within the context of the capacity of the Park and its resources, the Final Master Plan/FEIS is designed to meet this additional demand (at the local level) as well as demand on a statewide basis. Increased growth in the Town as well as Park use will generate additional traffic, which comes under the purview of the Town and Department of Transportation.

Comment: Growth and Overuse of the Park

There is a lot of educational value to the Park; however, if the plan is successful, completed to full build-out, and more people come to the Park, then there are concerns of overuse.

Response:

The Master Plan has attempted to strike a balance between enhancing the recreational area around Moreau Lake while at the same time preserving its natural setting and limiting development of lands in other areas of the Park. The facility and use levels proposed for the Park are considered to be compatible with the natural and cultural resources. Overall use of the Park is limited by the number of campsites and parking spaces for vehicles. Currently the Park closes when it reaches capacity.

Comment: Scale back the Plan

If the plan is scaled back, it will still allow for the Park to grow with its neighbors and offer many new activities to handle the increases in public demand.

Response:

The Draft Master Plan/DEIS evaluated a range of alternatives including the Status Quo which can be considered a scaling back of the preferred approach in the Final Plan. Scaling back of the Final Plan is not consistent with the demand for recreation opportunities at the Park both from the local and statewide patrons.

Comment: Development and Implementation Focus

The focus of the plan should be on interpretive programs, acquisition of adjoining lands, and stabilization/improvement of existing facilities rather than expansion and development of new facilities.

Response:

The plan identifies the need for interpretive programs, acquisition of adjoining lands, and stabilization/improvement of existing facilities. Many of these are identified in the early implementation phases while development of most of the new facilities is in the later phases.

Comment: Flow of the Plan

The document was difficult to follow in terms of what is precisely being proposed and where it will take place. Much of the text seems to be addressing “future possibilities” rather than hard and fast plans at this point. The large grey scale map around page 248 is one of the more useful features of the plan.

Response:

The Final Master Plan/Final EIS provides both short and long term direction for the Park. Chapter V describes what is proposed for each of the Park’s four management areas. The “Implementation” section of Chapter V contains a table that outlines the phasing of proposed improvements. Detailed site development plans will be prepared as each project is advanced.

Open Space Preservation

Comment: Balance of Use and Preservation

How does snowmobiling and large RV parking areas fit with the open space and preservation aspects of the Plan?

Response:

Snowmobiling currently takes place in the Warren County Management Area primarily by local residents. There are limited trail opportunities and currently no parking areas. A minimum number of parking spaces are proposed to support snowmobiling and other trail activities within the Warren County Management Area. The RV sites are proposed in the lands between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road, an area originally purchased for a Park entrance. This area is closer to the main roads and not near the lake, the existing camping area or any of the lands proposed for dedication as a Park Preservation Area, Bird Conservation Area or a Natural Heritage Area. The location of these sites is consistent with the goal of the plan to balance recreational use and natural resource protection.

Comment: Future Acquisitions

OPHRP is to be commended in its efforts to preserve large expanses of open space and increasing the size of Moreau Lake State Park. Future acquisitions should include a transfer to OPRHP of the northern section of Mount McGregor lands south of Lake Ann; the in-holdings in the interior of the Park; and adjoining parcels of land.

Response:

Noted.

Comment: Protect the Park Resources

OPRHP should be cautious and long sighted stewards of Moreau Lake State Park protecting not only its cultural and scenic qualities, but protecting it from over use and development.

Response:

Park staff will continue to monitor the Park resources to ensure their integrity. If over use of a resource begins to occur, Park and regional staff will take appropriate mitigation measures to prevent any deterioration or impacts to the resources.

Environmental Impacts

Comment: Traffic Studies

What is involved with conducting a traffic study and what does it consist of?

Response:

If a traffic study is warranted, OPRHP will hire a consultant to count traffic volumes along current roads and intersections and determine levels of service for each. The consultant will then consider proposed work by OPRHP and model what the future impacts might be on these levels of service.

Comment: PCBs in the Hudson River

The Draft Plan's proposal to increase development and human use of the Hudson River in the area of Potter's Point will leave OPRHP and New York State vulnerable to unacceptable legal and financial liabilities. OPRHP should not develop Potter's Point or in any way increase human use of the Hudson River until the PCB sediments are removed from river sediments adjacent to the proposed Corinth Road boat access.

There is an extreme danger that increased visitor traffic will disturb the sediments in shallow water and increase the risk of human contact with PCBs. Activities such as canoeing, kayaking, fishing and wading should not be encouraged as there is risk of contact with contaminated sediments. Visitors who walk through contaminated sediment will most likely experience a red rash.

Response:

OPRHP notes that there is an ongoing mitigation project at Site #55012 under the jurisdiction of NYSDEC. The following information is taken from DEC's website.

"This site is on property owned by Niagara Mohawk [*National Grid*] located along the Hudson River. The property was leased for use as seasonal residences. The site is approximately 0.8 miles upstream from the Queensbury Water Treatment Plant. An area adjacent to one of the seasonal residences (which has been removed) is near the river and is terraced. An area of soil was contaminated either by dumping of 37,737 ppm on the river bank and 86.5 on the river bottom adjacent to the shore. Niagara Mohawk completed a pair of Interim Remedial Measures at the site involving the removal and proper disposal of contaminated soil from areas with high PCB levels. The responsible party has completed a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study under the terms of a Consent Order. A Record of Decision was issued in March 1995 and divided the site into two Operable Units (OP UNIT 1 and OP UNIT 2). OP UNIT 1 addressed the dry portion of the site including the near-shore sediment that was exposed by lowering the Hudson River a total of four feet. The removal of contaminated soil and exposed contaminated sediment associated with this operable unit are complete. OP UNIT 2 addresses the rest of the contaminated sediment. A supplemental Feasibility Study under this operable unit is underway.

River bottom sediments contaminated with PCB's remain in a localized area adjacent to the site. The intake at the Town of Queensbury public water supply is downstream and the water supply is monitored quarterly. No PCBs have been detected. An annual fish sampling program starting in 1995 shows a decrease of PCB levels in fish. There is no longer a special advisory against consumption of fish from the Sherman Island Pool. The need for future advisories will be evaluated based on results of ongoing monitoring. Remedial options to address PCB contaminated sediments area being evaluated."

Based upon this information, OPRHP has concluded that this site does not pose a threat to recreational use of this section of the river. In addition, OPRHP will continue to consult with DEC on the progress of this remediation.

Comment: PCBs flow down stream

The potential for health hazards are presented not only to visitors, but to entire down stream communities that draw drinking water from the Hudson. A swimmer or flipped paddler who accidentally ingested water with suspended PCB contaminated sediment may experience gastrointestinal disorders in adults to neurological difficulties in children and could cause birth defects in developing fetuses. Any disturbance of the 8-acre sediment site would introduce PCB's into the water column and thereby creating a significant health hazard to downstream communities. The worst effects would be felt by the town of Queensbury who draws its water from the same side of the river as the PCB site.

Response:

As noted in the previous response OPRHP has concluded that this remediation site does not pose a threat to recreational use of this section of the river. In addition swimming is not proposed in the Master Plan as a use for the Hudson River. The property in question is not managed by OPRHP.

Comment: Update PCB information in Master Plan

The Draft Master Plan for Moreau Lake State Park must be updated to include all known information about the past and current state of the PCB sediments at the DEC's Niagara Mohawk (National Grid) site #55012. Once the mapped hazard is incorporated into the Draft Master Plan, there must be no attempt to implement any part of the plan until the PCB site is effectively remediated and tested to the DEC's clean-up requirement of fewer than 2 ppm for the entire site or whatever more applicable standard is imposed by DEC. Only then can OPRHP deliver the most important promise and provision of the planned expansion of Moreau Lake State Park – "Protect and maintain the quality of water resources both on and associated with the Park."

Response:

The site noted is not part of Moreau Lake State Park, and is not under OPRHP's jurisdiction. As stated above, NYS DEC is addressing this issue. Additional information has been added to the text of this document to clarify this. As noted above, OPRHP has concluded that this remediation site does not pose a threat to recreational use of this section of the river.

Comment: Light Pollution

Steps should be taken to limit light pollution within the Park and work with the town board to implement zoning requirements for impending commercial development in the exit 17 area.

Response:

The Agency is aware of this issue and future park facility development will be sensitive to reducing the impact of lights on the environment. Lighting requirements for the Exit 17 area are a local government issue. OPRHP will comment on any proposed adjacent development as appropriate.

Comment: Air Quality

Page 63 states air quality as having “good” health effects. Air quality should be assessed during a typical camping weekend to determine effects of campfire smoke on campers and adjoining residences. The proposed Rt 9 camping area should be evaluated to determine effects on the South Rd. residences. An upgraded loop with limits on fires (charcoal, group fire) may be warranted for persons with breathing ailments.

Response:

Campfires are considered part of the camping experience. Campfires will continue to be allowed and it will be up to the discretion of the campers on whether or not to have a campfire. At this time there are no proposed limits on campfires. In addition, there are very few homes in the close proximity of the proposed camping area on the parcel between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road.

Comment: Protection of Lake Quality

The plan team should more thoroughly review proposed private development plans within the lake’s watershed specifically along Mill Creek; prepare modeling of groundwater contaminate transport within the recharge area of the lake for proposed septic systems especially those located in “severe” rated soil areas; and relocate the proposed dump station to outside the recharge area.

Response:

The impacts of private development outside of the Park should be part of the Town’s review process. OPRHP has an interest in any potential impacts from private developments that may impact the Park and will participate through the SEQR review process.

Activities

Comment: Spier Falls Dam

Information on the history and construction of the Spier Falls Dam is worth adding to the Park's interpretive programs.

Response:

Information on the history of Spier Falls Dam will be added to the appropriate interpretive programs and is already included in a kiosk at the Spier Falls boat launch.

Comment: Grant's Cottage

Will it ever be possible to walk to Grant's Cottage via park trails?

Response:

Trail connections to Grants Cottage require crossing Department of Corrections' property. OPRHP will continue discussions and coordination with the Department for trail connections through their property.

Comment: Disc Golf

A proposal for the development of a disc golf course within the Park was submitted. If the closure of a portion of Old Saratoga Road is implemented, then a disc golf course could be a very natural and beneficial addition to the Park. The area of the old gravel mine on the Route 9 property would be an ideal location. Please consider adding a disc golf course to Moreau Lake State Park.

Response:

Currently site conditions are not appropriate for a disc golf course. In addition, through the Master Plan process, the Agency has identified the old gravel mine site as the future location for the maintenance facility.

Comment: Trailhead Parking Security

Try to keep any trailhead parking close to roads for security purposes. Trailhead parking should be designed visible to the main roads. This will help to prevent personal assaults, vehicle break-ins and dumping. A plan should be developed and discussed that deals with security issues at remote trailhead parking locations.

Response:

Although it may be preferable to have trailhead parking close to the roads for security purposes, the Park has few areas suitable for parking. In addition, these available locations for parking are constrained by the site conditions. Thus the proposed trailhead parking areas have been located back from the roads. Regular patrolling of these areas by Park staff will help discourage any vandalism.

Comment: Overnight Parking at Trailheads

It is recognized that OPRHP has had little experience with trails long enough to be inviting to backpackers; hence they have instituted a requirement to obtain an overnight parking permit from Park headquarters if cars are parked at trailheads or at the two Hudson River boat access locations. This permit is expected to be an utter surprise to hikers or canoeists when they park their vehicle at the beginning of their outing. Any signage should assume that the driver has no idea where the Park headquarters is located.

Response:

Appropriate camper registration and direction information will be included in the signage at the parking lots.

Comment: Trail Registers

There was only one mention of the use of a trail register in the Master Plan. It would seem more effective if OPHRP adopted a system of registers for trailhead and water access sites at locations away from Park headquarters. Essentially, drivers would be self registering their overnight stay.

Response:

In the short term, it is preferred to have overnight registration administered at the Park Office. Day use registers will be considered at the trailheads.

Comment: Hunting/ Hiking, Biking conflicts

There is a potential for conflict between the hunting activity and the hiking and biking activities in the Palmertown Mountain Range. There is nothing in the Draft Plan for dealing with the potential dangers of hunting and hiking in the same areas. Add to the plan: 1) post seasonal signs at the trailheads reminding hikers and bikers that it is hunting season and to wear appropriate clothing; 2) use the kiosks to inform hikers and bikers how to increase their visibility to hunters; and, 3) offer to loan (or rent) cheap plastic "construction" vests to hikers and bikers at the Park headquarters.

Response:

Park staff will continue to make the public aware of areas of the Park that are open to hunting. Posting signs at trail heads and kiosks is one way to inform the public. To date, hunters, hikers, and bikers have been sharing the area with minimal conflict.

Comment: Backcountry Skiing

Backcountry skiing should be permitted off trail. Include off trail backcountry skiing in the plan. Opportunities for back country skiing in the area are limited. The required conditions include open woods, reasonable pitch, and most importantly-sufficient snow is rare opportunities. The west facing slopes near the Cottage Trail, some years, provide sufficient snow to enjoy backcountry skiing. On those few occasions, I believe that little or no environmental impact occurs due to the snow depth over the vegetation.

Response:

All trail users must stay on designated trails as per Park Regulations.

Comment: Bike Trails

All trails should remain open to bikes. The topography of the area tends to be self limiting. Trail damage and user conflict is more indicative of a lack of user education than unsuitability.

Response:

The trail system has been designed to provide for a variety of trail experiences. Through the planning process, trails were designated by use and not all trails allow biking due to terrain conditions.

Comment: Trail Closures

All trails should be open unless posted closed. Because installation and maintenance of signs takes effort, a closed unless posted open strategy often tend to prohibit access to a large area, rather than the specific trail. Open unless posted closed allows for control of specific trails if a need is identified.

Response:

The current practice is that all trails are open unless posted closed.

Comment: Local Control of Trails

The Park should retain local control of new trail construction and relocation of existing trails. The plan should contain a discussion of how local Park management will maintain the ability to plan and construct new trails or reroute existing trails as conditions dictate.

Response:

The Park Manager is the front line person in maintaining trails within the Park. The Manager can propose new trails or relocation of an existing trail for review by Regional Staff and Albany Office. This will be based on the demand, level and type of use, trail conditions, use conflicts, and environmental concerns.

Comment: Geocaching

Geocaching is not a recognized user group of the Park within the plan. They should be explicitly added to the plan.

Response:

Geocaching is an activity that is permitted in designated areas of the Park. Although most geocaches are located along side trails, they may also be located in other areas of the Park. The guidance for geocaching is through an Agency policy and not specific to the Park. However, all geocaches and their location must be approved by the Park Manager and

consistent with the guidelines within the Agency policy. Therefore, geocaching was considered as a program activity and not specifically addressed in the master plan.

Comment: Snowmobile Use

Due to the wintering Bald Eagle habitat along the Hudson River, it is recommended that absolutely no snowmobiles be permitted within ½ mile of the river.

Response:

Snowmobiling has been an activity within the portion of the park that is in Warren County. This use is local in nature and low in intensity. Vehicles and trailers for snowmobile use park along Hawk Road. The proposed plan will provide a parking area for 10 cars and 5 car/trailers that will accommodate those few users currently parking on the shoulder of Hawk Road. The plan does not call for expansion of snowmobile use.

Presently the informal trail will remain the same. The Master Plan for the park calls for a trails plan for the Warren County portion of the park. This trails plan will consider the creation of a looped trail system that can be used by snowmobilers and other trail users. This trails plan will be subject to supplemental review. The trails plan will provide improved recreation experiences for all trail users. However, this trails plan is limited to the park and will not be connected to or part of any larger snowmobile trail system.

OPRHP understands that wintering Bald Eagles adapt to existing environmental conditions including recreational uses. Thus, the Bald Eagles and existing limited snowmobile use have co-existed for many years. Since the plan does not call for expansion of trail uses, the current coexistence of eagles and snowmobiles is expected to continue at the same level.

Most of the existing trail on the Warren County side is set back about 1/8th of a mile from the shoreline. While there is a small segment of the trail that comes as close as 85 feet from the shoreline, the continuation of snowmobile use as has occurred over many years is not expected to impact the numbers or behaviors of wintering Bald Eagles. The Agency will continue to monitor Bald Eagle activity in the park along with snowmobile and other trail uses within the Warren County Management Area. It will consult with the Endangered Species Unit at the Department of Environmental Conservation on all matters pertaining to Bald Eagles, use and protection.

Comment: Specialization

It is time to stop trying to have places like Moreau Lake be all things to all people and “specialize” a bit. Offer a more unique, generally unavailable opportunity to the public.

Response:

The unique natural and cultural resources at Moreau Lake State Park were a primary consideration in the direction proposed in the master plan. As such, a “cookie cutter” approach that would provide activities/facilities to address every recreational need was not utilized.

Closure of Old Saratoga Road

Comment: Impact on Emergency Services

Closing Old Saratoga Road from Mountain Road to South Road would cause Emergency Services vehicles to be rerouted to South Road in order to access Old Saratoga Road residences south of the Park. The intersection of Route 9 and South Road is a very sharp turn and may not be safely navigated by large, fast moving fire trucks or ambulances. The reroute would also increase the response time of emergency vehicles attempting to reach Old Saratoga Road residences. The plan does not mention whether or not local Emergency Services were consulted.

Response:

The closure of Old Saratoga Road is no longer within the preferred alternative of the Final Master Plan/FEIS. The master plan now proposes adding a turning lane at the entrance of the Park to address the concerns regarding vehicles waiting along Old Saratoga Road to enter the Park. As this is a town road, OPRHP will be working with the Town in the design and implementation of the improvements.

Comment: Impact on School Bus Routes and other Community Services.

Closure of Old Saratoga Road would cause school bus routes and Town maintenance vehicles to be rerouted. Personnel from OPRHP should meet with the Town of Moreau, School Districts and Town Highway Departments to discuss alternatives that would better meet the needs of local residents and service providers.

Response:

The preferred alternative no longer includes the closure of Old Saratoga Road. See also the response to the comment above.

Comment: Safety of Alternate Routes

The alternative to using Old Saratoga Road to access Route 9 is South Road. This road meets Route 9 at a 30 degree angle and meets Old Saratoga Road at a similar angle. Entering and exiting traffic from Route 9 would be dangerous. In addition South Road has a steep grade that is difficult to navigate in winter and does have a blind spot at the crest of the hill. Residences are built very close to the road side, and the road does not have adequate shoulders for stopping, passing, walking etc. There is no room to widen or improve the road to handle more traffic. This does not adequately mitigate the impacts of closing a portion of Old Saratoga Road.

Traffic on Mountain Road is already horrendous. How will this new entrance impact Mountain Road residents' access to Route 9 and Exit 17?

Response:

The closure of Old Saratoga Road is no longer within the preferred alternative of the Final Master Plan/FEIS. The master plan now proposes adding a turning lane at the entrance

to the Park to address the concerns regarding vehicles waiting along Old Saratoga Road to enter the Park.

Comment: Historic Nature of Old Saratoga Road

Old Saratoga Road is part of “Old Route 9” and is very scenic and historic to local residents. Closing this portion of Old Saratoga Road would ruin that scenic and historic quality that many residents enjoy.

Response:

The preferred alternative no longer includes the closure of Old Saratoga Road. The new preferred alternative calls for adding a stacking/turning lane to a portion of Old Saratoga Road near the entrance to the Park. The design of the improvements will be sensitive to the scenic quality of the road.

Comment: Traffic Studies

Traffic studies should have been conducted prior to the selection of closing Old Saratoga Road as part of the Draft Plan. Traffic studies should look at the impacts of traffic on Mountain Road; the increased traffic anticipated due to the addition of new housing developments in the area; impacts on the ability of local residents to access the Park; the impacts on residents of Old Saratoga Road and South Road; police and emergency service vehicle response times; and, the impacts on use by the general public.

Response:

The preferred alternative no longer includes the closure of Old Saratoga Road.

Comment: Additional Housing Proposals

The Town has approved a number of new housing developments in the area of the Park. This is going to increase demands on the Park and the local road system surrounding the Park. These new residential areas have not been taken into account in the proposal to close Old Saratoga Road.

Response:

The new housing developments in the area will increase the traffic on Old Saratoga Road and other local roads. This could result in additional concerns for patron safety and other users of the road. The overall impacts of the new developments should be addressed by the Town through their Comprehensive Plan.

Comment: Internal Parking Issues have Nothing to do with the Road

The lack of parking inside the Park is the problem. If parking inside the Park is increased then there will be no congestion on Park roads, or a need to stack vehicles on Old Saratoga Road. Fix the parking situation within the Park first. Closing Old Saratoga Road will not solve an internal Park problem.

Response:

The concern of vehicles waiting outside the Park along Old Saratoga Road cannot be addressed by adding more parking within the Park. There are limited opportunities to increase parking, especially at the beach/day use area. The Plan includes a recommendation for additional parking spaces at the day use area, but this limited number will not be sufficient to meet demand. The closure of Old Saratoga Road was considered to be one option that would help alleviate the stacking along the road and provide a safer condition for Park patrons. The new preferred alternative calls for adding a stacking/turning lane to a portion of Old Saratoga Road near the entrance to the Park.

Comment: Reconsider other Alternatives

Many suggestions were made to reconsider various alternatives already listed in the plan. These included: redesigning the existing entrance; making an entrance road from Route 9; seasonally closing Old Saratoga Road; and, widening Old Saratoga Road and making a turning lane into the Park.

Suggestions for new entrance alternatives included: creating a pedestrian bridge over or a tunnel under Old Saratoga Road; moving the existing toll booth further into the Park; relocating the entrance all together; relocating Old Saratoga Road to Route 9, creating a Park entrance off Route 9 and installing a round about on Route 9; and, developing a satellite park and ride.

Other suggestions included operational alternatives such as limiting the number of RVs allowed in the Park and having pre-registration on the internet.

Response:

The preferred alternative no longer includes the closure of Old Saratoga Road. The plan is now proposing the development of a stacking/turning lane.

Comment: Stacking Issues

Stacking on Old Saratoga Road occurs once or twice a season. Most residents have not seen the stacking and back-ups at the entrance to the Park. The issues regarding vehicle stacking on Old Saratoga Road should be better explained and illustrated.

Response:

The stacking situation on Old Saratoga Road is a complex situation that involves the movement of both day users and campers. Once the day use parking facilities have reached capacity, no more day users are allowed to enter the Park. Some choose to wait until parking spaces become available. At the same time, campers need to be able to enter the Park to access their sites. Thus, the stacking of day users also impacts the access of campers. The situation occurs primarily on weekends and may vary during the course of the day. As the Park becomes more popular, the situation can worsen. The camping parking area and stacking lane will hopefully reduce the situation.

Comment: Eminent Domain

If the Town will not turn the road over to the State, will the State take the road using eminent domain?

Response:

The position of the Agency is not to use its power of eminent domain. If this option is pursued in the future, it will be conducted through negotiations with the Town.

Potter's Point Recreation Area

Comment: Impacts on Residential Areas

The end of Potter Road is a growing residential area. The proposed recreation facilities (8 cabins/cottages and 40 tent/trailer campsites) will increase traffic on Potter Road, change the type of vehicles using Potter Road from family and commuter vehicles to large recreational vehicles and campers, and increase noise and air pollution. The safety of area children will also be put at risk due to increased traffic. The economic impacts of this recreation development will devalue the new homes being constructed while the taxes will continue to increase. Impacts to the residents' quality of life, such as these, are not adequately addressed in the plan. This is not an appropriate location for the development of a campground/cabin recreation area.

Response:

The proposed recreation development at Potters Point includes 8 cabins/cottages and 40 tent/trailer campsites that will be phased in over a number of years. The campsites proposed for this area are 375 sq ft with a parking lane of 375 sq ft which will accommodate tents and pop-up trailers. The tent/trailer campsites are not designed for RV campers and will not be permitted in this area. The proposed campsite is approximately 1/3 mile from the residential development. Noise levels at the campsite should not impact the residents. The roads utilized to access the campsite would be similar to those that provide access from the main road to the residences. The amount of increased traffic at the campsite would vary between peak season and off season and from weekend to weekday. In most cases, property values increase when located adjacent to parkland. This site along the river provides an overnight recreational experience that is different than the campground around Moreau Lake.

Comment: Conditions of Potter Road

Potter Road has lots of sharp turns and is barely wide enough to allow two vehicles to pass one another. Major improvements such as widening the road, will be needed to handle the larger recreational vehicles.

Response:

The proposed tent/camper sites at Potter's Point are not designed for RVs and RVs will not be permitted. Potter Road is capable of handling the recreation traffic that would be accessing the Potters Point area of the Park.

Comment: Entrance to the Potter's Point area

Paving on Potter Road currently ends at a gate before the Park entrance and then becomes a single lane dirt road. Who will be responsible for improving the road beyond the gate, the Town or the Park?

Response:

OPRHP will be responsible for the road improvements on parkland. However, road improvements may be implemented as part of the proposed county water supply project.

Comment: Access Through a Residential Area

It is not appropriate to have to drive through a residential area to access a campground. No other parks have this situation.

Response:

Given the configuration and topography of Moreau Lake State Park, this is the only reasonable option for accessing the site.

Comment: Traffic Studies

Are there traffic studies being done to evaluate the level of increased traffic on Potter Road due to the development of the campground/cabin colony?

Response:

Due to the relatively low volume of traffic that would be generated by the campsite, traffic studies were not conducted.

Comment: No Problem with Potter's Point proposal

A resident did not identify any issue with the Potter's Point development proposal. The area is a Park and as such should be available to a diverse user group including "monster" RVs. However, it is doubtful those large vehicles will be able to get over the speed limit given the sharp turns.

Response:

As noted earlier, the site is not designed for RV camping and RVs will not be permitted to use the sites.

Comment: Black Bear Populations

Black Bear populations in the area should be studied to see what impact, if any, the residential and recreational developments have on them.

Response:

This would be a broader study that goes beyond the scope of the Master Plan. The Agency would be willing to participate in a larger study if one is initiated. The Agency works closely with the Department of Environmental Conservation on matters pertaining to black bear populations that impact State Parks.

Comment: RV Campground Development

The large expansion of Potter's Point is very disturbing. The plan appears to be "all or nothing" and no middle ground is offered. The expansion states that there will be 40 trailer sites with water and electricity put into Potter's Point. Although only tents and pop-up trailers are intended to use the area, if water and electrical hook-ups are provided the bigger RVs will come.

Response:

Potter's Point will be developed in phases over a number of years. The initial phase will provide primitive camping opportunities. The full build out proposes campsites to serve tent and trailer (pop-up) campers. They will not be designed for RVs. Water and electric hookups are not being proposed for the campsites. The small number of campsites proposed in this area would not provide the critical mass necessary to cover operational expense of installing electric and water hook-ups. Water and electric will be needed for the toilet/shower building at the camping area as well as for the future cabins/cottages.

Comment: Providing Emergency Services

The Town has expressed concern about their ability to provide emergency services to the new Potter's Point camping development.

Response:

The Region will have discussions with the Town concerning emergency services at Potter's Point before the site is developed.

Comment: Scale back development of Potter's Point

The development of Potter's Point should be scaled back to provide only water-accessed camping, hiking trails and canoe/kayak access or located at the Sherman Island Boat Launch Site. Land access would cause recreational traffic to travel through a residential area and provide a means for campers to leave and head to the Lake to swim, thus aggravating the congestion at the Park entrance.

Response:

Low intensity site development is proposed in the initial phases with a focus on water access. Campers will have to travel to the beach at Moreau Lake to swim. Due to the relatively low number of patrons utilizing the area and the proposed modifications at the Park entrance and day use area, the impact at the main entrance of the Park would be minor. The Sherman Island Boat Launch does not have adequate area for the addition of a camping area.

Comment: Modification and other Alternatives

Just because this location housed cabins in the past it does not mean that their return is justified. Subsequent to the removal of the cabins, the wild and scenic character of the river was enhanced. A trail head with a kiosk should be developed at the end of Potter Road for hiking access to Potter's Point. Car accessible camping should be relocated further inland and

up against the base of the mountain, near the Sherman Island Boat Launch. This area provides better screening from the river, is not near any residential area and appears to have ample space to support a campground.

If car accessed camping is to be provided, the number of sites should be scaled back. The campsites are located 400-500 feet inland which is appropriate; however, the cabin colony still appears to be too close to the shore. These should be moved inland to a similar distance as the campsites.

Response:

Potter's Point was proposed for cabin and campsite development due to its topography, access and type of experience it would provide. The proposed site for development is approximately 1/3 mile from the residential development. The proposed cabins/cottages are sited approximately 200 feet or more from the shore. Given the vegetative buffer between the shoreline and the proposed cabins/cottages, this distance was considered adequate. More site specific plans will be prepared when the funding becomes available to advance the development of the cabins and campsites. There is insufficient flat, dry land outside of the FERC boundary at the Sherman Island Boat Launch to develop a campsite there.

Relation to Other Plans and Programs

Comment: Connection to Local/Regional Bicycle Trail Systems

The Draft Plan calls for OPRHP to “cooperate with local governments in developing connections to regional bicycle routes” in the Lake Recreation Area. It is suggested that the Plan Team investigate the potential for local trail connections (bike and pedestrian) to the State Park. The Plan Team should review the Town of Wilton’s Open Space Recreation and Pathways Plan, Moreau’s Comprehensive Plan and the Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Committee’s (the region’s MPO) August 2000 “South Glens Falls/Moreau Bikeway Conceptual Plan.

Response:

These plans were considered during the planning process.

Comment: Trail Connections to the Northern Part of the Park

If there is anything seriously looked at to make trail connection with existing trails that would come from Warren and Washington Counties and through Moreau and South Glens Falls that would connect to the north part of the Park, it would be nice to have it as part of the Plan. The plan reads not applicable as far as extension of trails to areas outside, either to the Recreation Management Area or to any other of the areas.

Response:

Trail connections to the Warren County portion of the Park were investigated. However, no viable connections were identified. However, a Trail Plan for the Warren County management area is proposed for development in the future and if the opportunity exists, trail connections will be made.

Comment: Term of FERC License

In the Plan, it reads the FERC license is for 50 years. This should be looked into, because it could be a 40 year license. Any agreements the Park has that relate to this license could be affected.

Response:

The term of the FERC license is for the Hudson River Project (Spier Falls and Sherman Island facilities) is 40 years. The plan text has been changed in the appropriate locations.

Comment: FERC Approvals of New Riverfront Facilities

The FERC license for the Hudson River Project is a standard license condition dealing with uses of project lands and waters. The Plan proposes facilities and uses that are not specifically covered in the license. The fact that the facilities are open to the public is in your favor; however, some of the new features such as a handicapped fishing platform and an additional car-top boat launch, may not be in the recreation plan approved by FERC. FERC

may require the power company to file an amended recreation plan and seek further approvals.

Response:

The recreation plan has been approved by FERC and includes a car-top boat launch and the fishing platform. Improving traffic flow and parking, access to a picnic area and the water's edge, including access for persons with disabilities are also proposals included in the Recreation Plan for the Sherman Island site.

Comment: Connect Moreau Lake and Saratoga Spa State Parks

A connector trail between Moreau Lake State Park and Saratoga Spa State Park should be developed. This non-motorized, multi-use trail is also envisioned in the Saratoga County Green Infrastructure Plan.

Response:

A connector trail route between Moreau Lake State Park and Saratoga Spa State Park, called the Palmertown Range Trail, has been identified by the County and Park Region and is currently being advanced.

Comment: Regional Development

The Park's Vision Statement should include integrating the Park into the regional recreational development plans. The Park should become the focal point of a regional trail system in northern Saratoga County. There should also be an effort to connect the Park to bike trail development to the north and west of the Park.

Response:

The Park is included within Saratoga Regional Trails Plan.

Comment: Monitoring and Removal of Invasive Species

A monitoring program for zebra mussels and milfoil should be implemented for Moreau Lake. Also, removal of other invasive species should be conducted in all areas of the Park. Currently, the plan only calls for removal of invasive species within the campground.

Response:

Currently, there is no monitoring program for zebra mussels or milfoil at the Park and boats are not inspected. Establishing a monitoring program is a good suggestion and will be considered. OPRHP is a member of the Invasive Species Task Force, a statewide group overseeing the preparation of a statewide plan for invasives management and a related grant program. Resources may be available to help OPRHP look into invasive species management controls at the Park.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species

Comment: American Chestnut and Black Tupelo

The existing flora section (pg. 63-64) did not include the American chestnut or black tupelo trees. Within the Park, the American chestnut has been observed bearing nuts. Based upon the threatened existence of this species any development should not impact its environment. The black tupelo is at the extreme northern limits of its range and should be given special consideration.

Response:

The Agency agrees these species are important and special consideration is give to them when any work takes place nearby. Agency wide, minimizing the impact on trees is a concern during site development. Whenever possible, the cutting of trees is avoided.

Comment: Lupine and Karner Blue Butterflies

There is Blue Lupine habitat along Loop “H” and the northeast corner of Mud Pond trail that should be protected. Also Blue Lupine and Karner blue butterflies have been found in the area between Route 9 and Old Saratoga Road.

Response:

NYS DEC staff, have in the past, visited the Park to survey it for Karner Blue butterfly and other species of concern. At the time no habitat was found. This will be investigated further with the assistance of DEC staff as site specific plans are developed for these areas.

Comment: Bald Eagle Wintering

Given the evidence that this is a winter use area and the need for more information as we move forward, OPRHP should continue and even expand eagle surveys within and adjacent to the Park, including during breeding season, as this area offers tremendous potential as future nesting habitat.

Response:

A winter monitoring program for bald eagles is in place and OPRHP is participating in the program under the direction of the DEC. OPRHP will remain receptive to any enhancement of monitoring as well as to recommendations from DEC regarding park operations that are based on findings from such monitoring.

Comment: Bald Eagles

It is encouraging to read language found in several places in the Draft Plan stating in effect that “potential impacts to the eagles’ use of the area will be identified as the project and proposals for new activities are evaluated”, this is important and necessary. However, more specific language regarding impacts is found in Appendix H (Management Guidance Summary for the BCA) which should be more mainstreamed in the Plan itself.

Response:

Information from Appendix H (the BCA Management Guidance Summary) has been added to the Master Plan proper (Chapter V), within the Designations section entitled “Bird Conservation Areas”.

Comment: Critical Dates for Eagles

The critical dates for eagles are December 1 – March 31 annually. Human activity within the Hudson River Corridor should be limited at this time; however, continue hunting under a permit system. Specific signage and closures will be required depending upon the access developed.

Response:

This period of time (December 1 – March 31) is a very low use period for recreation. The Master Plan does not call for significant expansion or enhancement of recreation activities during this period in the Hudson River Corridor area of the Park. The level of activity will essentially remain the same as it has been for many years. OPRHP will continue monitoring of Bald Eagle activity in consultation with DEC. Should monitoring show significant stress or pressure on the existing Bald Eagle wintering use, OPRHP and DEC will meet to determine first whether such stress may be related to park operations and if so, what steps will be taken to assure that Bald Eagle use is not impaired.

Designations

Comment: Extend the BCA

Designation of parts of the Park as Bird Conservation Area and Natural Heritage Area are good, but the BCA should extend into Potter's Point. The undulating coast line and protected bays of the river adjoining this area are not found elsewhere along the river within the Park.

Response:

BCA designated areas within parks have been identified based on review of criteria specified within State Law. The Potter Point area does have attributes conducive to birds and bird habitat. However, the area was also previously disturbed and a determination made that the area did not meet the more rigorous criteria for designation. Birds and bird habitat protection, however, will be taken into consideration during the design and siting of facilities in the Potters Point area.

Comment: Park Preservation Area

The Palmertown Area should be designated as a Park Preservation Area. Expansion of the PPA should be reevaluated in other areas of the Park as more information is generated and if proposed development is compatible. Critical habitat along the Hudson River (especially along the Warren County shoreline) should also be included in this designation.

Response:

The Palmertown Area has been recommended as a Park Preserve Area (PPA) within the Plan. The Agency agrees that the Hudson River corridor is an important wildlife habitat area. However, designation of a PPA can only occur on State owned land. Since the land along the Hudson River Corridor is generally within the FERC boundary and not owned by the State, it is not eligible for designation.

Comment: Park Preservation Area Definition

The meaning and effect of a Park Preservation Area designation is hard to find within the Draft Plan.

Response:

Additional information has been added to further explain the implications of designating a Park Preservation Area.

Warren County Management Area

Comment: Corinth Road Boat Launch

The development of a car top boat launch would be beneficial. Limits on boat access from the possible future boat launch on the Hudson River should be included even though the public access easement for the road leading to the possible boat launch has not been obtained. Note that this car top boat launch site was to be provided by the Town of Queensbury according to the FERC settlement, not OPRHP.

Response:

Noted

Comment: Trails

Development of a non-motorized trail system in Warren County would be beneficial and should be encouraged. Non-profit organizations and the Town of Queensbury should be consulted in developing trails that extend beyond the Park to West Mountain and further north.

Response:

The Master Plan calls for preparing a Trails Plan for the Warren County Management Area in the future and OPRHP will coordinate with non-profit organizations and the Towns during the development of the Trails Plan which will include potential connections to trail systems outside the Park.

Comment: Uses and Eagles

The western portion (Luzerne Mountains) appears to be currently undeveloped and is a known winter-roost site for Bald Eagles. The concept should be to try and keep the area undeveloped and concentrate any believed desirable development to the southern portion of the Park.

Response:

The Master Plan recognizes the importance of the Bald Eagle wintering area in the Park. The primary recreation activities and facilities are concentrated in the Lake Recreation Area which is south and east of the Hudson River and Luzerne Mountain areas. In addition, the uses in the areas adjacent to the Hudson River, particularly in the western section of the Park, will not be increased in any significant way.

Comment: Hawk Road Trailhead/Access

The proposed trailhead and potential 4-season access at the Hawk Road entrance, poses serious concern given the sensitivity of Bald Eagles in their night roosts. It is strongly recommended that winter recreational uses of this area not be allowed especially snowmobiles. This would be one area where clear winter trail closure would be required if trails were open and attractive and cut directly through critical wintering eagle habitat.

Response:

Please see the response to the snowmobiling comment in the “Activities” section of this Chapter. The Plan does not call for any significant change in type or extent of recreation use associated with the proposed Hawk Road entrance. The parking area is being created to provide access for existing trail users, and not intended to expand use. Considering the limited parking area and limited extent of the trail system, this area is not expected to attract a large number of snowmobilers.

Hudson River Corridor Management Area

Comment: Definition of Corridor

The definition of the Hudson River Corridor is difficult to find within the Plan. Specifically, how far inland the corridor extends. An inland-shoreline buffer to the actual river in terms of definition is essential. It is recommended that the corridor buffer be a minimum of 300 feet.

Response:

The Management Areas are defined in Chapter IV under “Resource Protection and Use Suitability”. The FERC boundry, topography, and physical constraints were taken into consideration in defining this area. Since the adjacent land to the Hudson River Corridor is parkland, a buffer is not required.

Comment: Scenic Qualities

This is the southern most undeveloped area of the Hudson River within the classic gorge setting. It is pristine and should not be over developed. It is one of only a few such unique and undisturbed sections of the Hudson left and one deserving of our conservation attention.

Response:

OPRHP acquisition of the steep upland areas and agreements with DEC and the operators of the power generating facilities within the Park, provide this section of river some protection from development pressures. The level of use of the area is controlled through the proposed designs for access sites and will be monitored for signs of overuse and resource impairment.

Comment: Winter Uses

Overall there is little actual development proposed within the corridor. Human use of an area can change the character and value of such an area and should be carefully evaluated as to its potential and acutal impacts and adaptive management anticipated as use occurs. Human activity during critical winter months when eagles are present, should be limited. Campsites and trails, especially if winter uses such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are to be permitted, should be located well away from the shoreline.

Response:

Noted. The Plan does not propose any winter camping. Cross country skiing and snowshoe trails will be away form the river’s edge.

Comment: Motorboat Use

Motorboats should be removed from both or one of the river impoundments. If this is not feasible, then limits on horsepower and boat sizes should be instituted. Personal watercraft should be banned all together. Personal watercraft make waves and disturbs other boaters, Bald Eagles, bird watchers, etc.

Response:

Motorboats have been traditionally used on the two impoundments and access is required under the FERC settlement agreement. The narrowness and the length of the impoundments affect the type of boating experience which may influence a boater's desire to go on the river. The limited parking area at Spier Falls Boat Launch is the primary factor that limits use in the Spier Falls impoundment. The Sherman Island Boat Launch has a larger parking capacity than the Spier Falls boat launch site. However, it has a gravel launch that discourages a number of boaters. The Plan does propose that this launch will receive enhancements. The existing gravel, two lane launch will be improved, however, only as a textured concrete launch. These changes will result in improved efficiency of launches and retrievals. The existing gravel parking area next to the launch with a capacity of 15 car/trailers will not be expanded. There is also an informal open parking area away from the boat launch site. This area will be improved to provide spaces for approximately 20 vehicles. This second area, however, is designed for parking for hikers and picnickers and will not be used for car/trailer parking.

Again, it is the narrowness, length and depth of the impoundments that are the primary factors expected to limit demand for the type of boating that requires larger boats with greater horsepower. This is especially true given that there is a dam located between the Spier Falls and Sherman Island boat launch sites.

While the Agency does not anticipate any significant change in the number or type of watercraft using the impoundment, it will monitor such use to determine if further steps are needed to protect natural resources and the quality of the recreation experience along this stretch of river.

Comment: Facility and River Capacity

The Sherman Island Impoundment capacity and the parking capacity at the Boat Launch are inconsistent within the report. More information regarding the capacity of the Sherman Island Impoundment and the potential increase in the number of boats as a result of development proposals should be included in the Plan. There is a concern that overall boater use of the Sherman Island impoundment (canoe, kayak, rowboat, motorboat, etc) will lead to over use of the four-mile stretch of river and access proposals should be scaled back.

Response:

The Sherman Island Boat Launch has an existing capacity for 15 car/trailers and an additional 10 cars in the small picnic pull-offs along the entry road. The improvements to this facility are designed to improve non-boater parking and to provide a concrete ramp to improve access to the river. The number of car/trailerers proposed is the same as the current number of spaces provided. The only change is an additional 26-car parking area that primarily supports day use and the trail head. Therefore the existing level of use should not change. As described in Chapter V under the heading of "Physical Resource Analysis, Water, Hudson River" the capacity is based on the estimated surface area of the impoundment of 305 acres and the standards for boats (acres/type of boat). The maximum capacity of each boating type would be:

Row boats (1 acres/boat) = 305 boats

Power boats (6-8 acres/boat) = 50 boats

Water skiing (15 -20 acres/boat) = 20 boats

The non-motorized and power boats are currently the primary users. The existing parking capacity of 15 car/trailers results in a use pattern well within the maximum capacity.

The useage of the launch area and river will be monitored by OPRHP to maintain the river experience, prevent over use and ensure patron safety. Given that the number of car/trailer parking spaces will not change and based on existing use patterns, overuse of the river is not likely to occur. Boating access is also a requirement of the FERC settlement agreement.

Comment: Sherman Island Boat Launch Improvements

The boat launch should only be upgraded to a single lane launch. This will help to discourage the use of motorized boats. There are safety concerns about large boats being trailered down the steep hill of Spier Falls Road as they approach the entrance to the boat launch. Also, the Sherman Island impoundment is shallow and there are many submerged rocks, trees and other debris that pose a hazard to larger, deeper set boats. Water levels within the impoundment also change based on operation of the power stations.

Other improvements such as a picnic pavilion are inappropriate for this location. The picnic pavilions are too close to the river's edge and detract from the "wilderness" feeling of the shoreline. Picnic tables may be more appropriate.

Response:

The water depth and changing conditions of the river will be noted at the launch kiosks. Such conditions will limit the number and types of boats on the river and where they are located (use area). This area provides the opportunity for limited day use and a trail head supporting the Palmertown trails. The small pavilions will be located and designed in a manner not to adversely impact the river experience.

Comment: Corinth Road Access

The state has had opportunities to provide access to the river from the Warren County side. The town had an agreement with the State. A launch site was to be built off of West River Road but it hasn't materialized. The State should coordinate with the power companies to plant trees for a visual screen between the river and Corinth Road at the proposed Corinth Road access site. Use should be limited to hiking trails, primitive camping and canoe/kayak access. This will provide increased access and recreational use of the river without changing its appearance.

Response:

A canoe/car-top launch with parking is proposed off of Corinth Road just up stream from the Sherman Island Dam.

Comment: Increase in Boater Use

The Draft Plan states that the potential environmental impact is “minimal increase in boater use of the Hudson”. This is incorrect. Unless the proposed expansion of boater access to this section of river is scaled back, the character of this section of river will be changed forever. The proposed changes in access to the Sherman Island Impoundment section of river will result in a major change to its quiet and peaceful nature. The current boat access is sufficient and should not be increased. Any improvements to the launches would encourage motorized watersports to invade this area which is inconsistent with the other activities being conducted. The current access services the fisherman and other power users that currently use the river in tandem with human powered kayaks and canoes and very few user conflicts occur. Overall there is a concern that with the campground, cabins, primitive campsites, boat launch improvements and added boat access, over use of this stretch of river could occur.

Response:

As identified above, the number of car/trailer parking spots will not change and as such the number of boats using the river. In addition, the water depth and changing conditions of the river will limit the number and types of boats on the river and where they are located (use area). Boating access is also a requirement of the FERC settlement agreement.

Comment: ADA Features at Existing Boat Launches

Note that in both areas (Sherman Island and Spier Falls Launches) one picnic table must be suitable for wheelchair users, i.e. big overhang at one end. Note that the low angle path must go to the water’s edge at both launches. This is so wheelchair users can go to the water’s edge where their companions can transfer them to a canoe. This means the person will either be a passenger or may be a paddler if he/she has upperbody and arm strength. If the latter, this would be a great experience. Neither the picnic tables nor canoe access are mentioned in the Master Plan.

Response:

Noted. Accessibility is considered in the design of all the park facilities, and ADA features at the boat launches are specifically addressed in the FERC settlement agreement.

Comment: Spier Falls Launch

Support was expressed for the plan’s intent to continue to provide a remote river experience from the Spier Falls Boat Launch Site by limiting parking/boat access and maintaining the present launch ramp size.

Response:

There is a need to improve the parking facility at the Spier Falls Boat Launch to make it more functional and safe to use. Due to site limitations, the number of additional parking spaces is limited so the remote experience should be maintained.

Comment: Spier Falls Portage Trail

The Draft Plan fails to mention who is specifically responsible for maintaining the Spier Falls Portage. Will it be the power company or OPRHP. This should be clearly stated in the Final Plan.

Response:

The power company is responsible for maintaining the portage as they are on lands retained by the company and not managed by the Park.

Comment: Water Trail Concept

There is support for extending the water trail concept through the Park. Portages around hydro power plants generally get approved by the FERC as mitigation for the presence of a dam.

Response:

Portages are part of the FERC recreation plan and will be constructed and maintained by the power companies as they are on retained lands not managed by the Park.

Comment: Water-accessed Campsites

What happened to the canoe campsites that were located on the islands within the Sherman Island Impoundment as specified in the FERC settlement for the Hudson River Project? Were these locations changed due to a revised recreation plan or possibly due to enforcement abilities of OPRHP rather than the power companies?

Response:

The islands are not under OPRHP management. Locating campsites there would likely present sanitary and management difficulties, so these were replaced with the sites along the Warren County shoreline.

Comment: Hartman Hill

Our residents need a canoe/kayak launch site at the base of Hartman Hill in the area previously occupied by several cottages. This would save us a 12 mile trip by car to reach the existing launch site on the opposite side of the river. The launch site should not accommodate motorboats. In fact this stretch of river should be restricted to boats with small motors, no larger than 5 hp.

Response:

Two water-accessed campsites are located at the mouth of Hartman Creek. Land side access to this location is not possible using existing public roads or Park trails. A canoe/car-top launch is proposed off of Corinth Road down stream of the campsites within the Warren County area of the Park. The Hudson River is considered a navigable waterway and restrictions on the type and or size of vessel cannot be made on a State or federal level.

OPRHP and the power company are required to provide public recreational access to the

river. The existing launch areas provide that access. The available parking and river conditions help to limit the type and level of use on the river.

Comment: Swimming in the Hudson River

The “no swimming” determination of the Master Plan is disappointing. This policy places the responsibility on the Park to affirmatively “prevent” that activity. It is understood that there is no suitable formal beach site available, so no guarded site is being proposed, but going to the extent of not selecting the best picnicking spots because they may attract access to the Hudson is strange. This forces those intent on swimming in the river to find less desirable, and less safe spots.

Response:

The Agency policy is to allow swimming only in guarded areas and therefore, swimming will not be permitted in the Hudson River. The river will be monitored by Park staff.

Palmertown Mountain Area

Comment: Primitive Backpack Camping and Lean-tos

Primitive camping would be a positive use here if sites are developed far enough from the roads to limit partying. Yet there is concern regarding use of these sites regardless of their location. This type of camping opportunity is offered elsewhere in the region (Lake George) and may not be appropriate here. Development of these sites would concentrate use in a particular area and user impacts would spread to a wider area. Sites such as these would also be difficult to maintain and patrol. Allowing camp fires raises concern over forest fires and the proximity to residences south of the Park. There are also concerns about providing adequate water supplies and sanitary facilities on the ridge. The number of sites/areas being designated for camping may not be adequate for groups, i.e. boy scouts, hiking club outings, etc. The plan indicates that if the designated sites are occupied, the hiker must find another designated site or leave the Park. This is not practical if sundown is an hour away and the car is still a two to three hour hike to reach. It is recommended that OPRHP follow the same guidelines as DEC, allowing backpackers to camp at any undesignated spot 150 feet or more away from a trail, road or water body. Lastly, lean-tos could be a safety and security issue for the Park and users.

Response:

Designating areas for backpack camping on Palmertown Mountain was considered a means to provide a different type of camping experience in a manner that could be readily controlled and monitored. This type of camping is primarily meant for transient trail users. The use will be monitored to determine if changes need to be made to the number, location, size, etc. of the sites. It was determined that it was preferred to have designated areas rather than having the activity occurring in an uncontrolled manner.

Comment: Horses, Snowmobiles and ATVs

Support and agreement with the Plan's determination that Snowmobiling, Horse and ATV use is inappropriate for this management area was provided. However, some equestrian users expressed a desire to use the trails in this management area. More information regarding the decision and rationale to exclude this use was requested. Equestrians feel that all that is needed is horse trailer parking to make the area accessible for horses.

Response:

The trails that access Palmertown Mountain are steep and rocky which can make it difficult for equestrian users. The primary area of use has been within the Lake Management Area (Moreau Lake). Due to the access conditions, equestrian use was not proposed for Palmertown Mountain. In addition, there is limited parking available for horse trailers. As a result, the Saratoga County portion of the Park would accommodate a certain level of equestrian use, but not be considered a destination for equestrian users.

Comment: Trails and Trail Development

The non-development of additional proposed trails (i.e. the telegraph tree and Lake Ann) may aid in leaving enough open space for hunters. However, the development of new trail and trail connections is encouraged.

The plan provides an extensive description of the various trails, which means little because it tells of junctions with other trails. It would be far more instructive to delete these descriptions and replace them with a trails map that shows trail names.

The current trail closure policy should be changed to “trail open unless posted closed”. There is concern over a loss of local control over trail development/construction decision making as a result of this plan.

Response:

The current practice is that the trails are open unless posted closed. The Park manager will continue to make recommendations on the trail system. Those that are significant in nature will be reviewed by the Region and the Albany Office. A trail map exists that provides information on the trails and has been added as map 12B in the Plan.

Comment: Trail Heads and Parking

The Draft Plan provides for improved signage and trail head parking for the Palmertown Mountain Area trail network. This will benefit all users. A portion of the Sherman Island Boat Launch’s parking should be designated “hikers only” to help limit boating use as well as providing parking for hikers.

Support for development of the Western Ridge Trail Head was expressed along with general support for maintaining and improving existing access. However, concerns over personal safety and security were expressed over trail heads that are designed to be in the interior of the Park rather than along road sides.

Response:

Noted. The number of parking spaces for cars at Sherman Island was increased in order to provide adequate parking for day users and hikers. Therefore, assigning specific space for hiking was not warranted. The availability of parking areas is limited by topography. In addition, OPRHP’s agreements with the power line corridor owners do not allow the use of these corridor lands for recreation. This has resulted in the need to locate parking areas off from the main road. The parking areas will be patrolled on a regular basis.

Lake Recreation Area

Comment: Toll Booth/Contact Station

Consider relocating the toll booth further in and providing appropriate staffing to reduce the stacking problem on Old Saratoga Road. The ratio between day users and campers may impact the situation.

Response:

The relocation of the toll booth was considered in the planning process but rejected due to topography and the road configuration. The stacking situation is primarily caused by the dayuse/beach parking area reaching capacity and the conflict created between day users waiting to enter the Park and campers who want to access their campsite. Therefore, the situation is more capacity related than a ratio between day users and campers. The revised preferred plan now proposes a turning lane and a camper registration parking area.

Comment: Signage

Improve the signage at the entrance.

Response:

Improvements to the signage are proposed in the plan.

Comment: Parking

Expand parking at the beach/day use area.

Response:

The Plan calls for creating some additional parking by reconfiguring the existing area, but also recognizes that the steep slopes adjacent to the beach area limit any significant expansion of the parking lot serving the area.

Comment: Water Quality

There was concern for the water quality of Moreau Lake in the future.

Response:

The water quality of Moreau Lake should not be impacted by any improvements in the future. Proper construction techniques, including use of proper erosion and drainage control practices, will be utilized during any development/rehabilitation project to protect the water quality.

Comment: Maintenance Facility

There were concerns on the need to move the maintenance facility as well as the need to develop a winterized multi use building and support facilities.

Response:

The maintenance area is currently located adjacent to the Park entrance. It functions adequately but needs to be upgraded and expanded to accommodate the Park's growing needs. The current location is visually unattractive and can be seen by Park patrons entering the Park. The site could be reprogrammed to provide winterized recreation/program

opportunities. These improvements are proposed for Phase 3 of implementation of the Master Plan.

Comment: RV Campsites

The need for RV campsites on the Route 9 parcel was in question as was the impact additional campers will have on the swimming area.

Response:

With the aging population and trend by campers to utilize RVs, it was considered appropriate to provide a minimum level of RV campsites. Due to the limited available area within the existing camping area, it was determined that a new camping area on the Route 9 side would be appropriate. A trail system would connect this to the day use area. This would be a means of access to the day use area if the parking was full. The beach has a large enough capacity to accommodate the additional use by RV campers and others as walk-ins. Various methods will be considered in a fee collection/contact system. Although, a second contact station on the Route 9 land is an option, additional staff may not be available to run it. As with any development, there will be some displacement of animals and in particular deer.

Comment: Air Quality

Air quality is a concern during the camping season, especially the smoke produced by campfires. There should be a smoke free camping loop.

Response:

Campfires for many are an important part of their camping experience. The determination of whether or not to have a campfire has been left up to the individual. Although the concept of having a smoke free camping loop is an interesting one and one that will be explored further, the current practice will continue.

Comment: Equestrian Trails

Equestrian trails should be provided on the Route 9 parcel but banned from the beach area.

Response:

The Nature Trail and a portion of the Lakeside Trail have traditionally been utilized by equestrians and will be designated for such use. Horses are not allowed on the beach or on sections of the Lakeside Trail that are near the lake. A connecting trail from the Route 9 parcel to the Lake Recreation Area's trails will be considered.

Comment: ADA Access

Provide ADA access to the boat rental area.

Response:

ADA accessibility is considered in the development and rehabilitation of all the facilities within the Park. An appropriately designed path will be developed to access the boat rental area.

Comment: Environmental Resources

Improve and protect the environmental resources through invasive species control and resource management in the campgrounds.

Response:

The Agency is in the process of developing a more comprehensive program to reduce and control the invasive species within the Park. Studies have also been undertaken to identify the impacts on soils and vegetation with the campgrounds at Moreau. Various methods for encouraging vegetation growth within the campground are being considered.

Comment: Mountain Biking

Consider the development of a stunt mountain bike activity area.

Response:

Although this is growing in popularity with many mountain bikers, it was not considered an appropriate activity at the Park.

Persons/Organizations Who Provided Comments

Name, Title, Organization

Betty Lou Bailey, Chair, Schenectady Chapter, Adirondack Mountain Club

Niki Baker, Town Councilwoman, Town of Moreau Town Board

Jacqueline Bave, Conservation Chair, Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Michael R. Brandt, Partner, West Mountain Liquidation Partnership

Daniel Campagnone, Resident

Robert and Faith DeMarsh, Residents

Torry Dorsey, Resident

David Dyer, Resident

Roger A. Dziengeski, Woodlands Manager, Finch, Pruyn & Co., Inc.

Ron Farra, New York State Trails Council

Jeanne Fleury, Town Clerk, Town of Moreau Town Board

June Flodsand, Resident

Julie Francis, Resident

Amy Francis, Resident

John P. Freeman, Vice President, Executive Committee and Secretary, Conservation Committee, Adirondack Mountain Club

Daniel Galusha, Member, Riverview Galusha, LLC

Thomas and Marybeth Giorgianni, Residents

Robert M. Goodwin, Resident

W. Mark Graber, Mohawk-Hudson Cycle Club

Harry G. Gutheil, Town Supervisor, Town of Moreau Town Board

Rich Hewlett, Town Councilman, Town of Moreau Town Board

Patricia Hodgson, Resident

Chris and Mutita Honsberger, Residents

Tina and Glenn Kays, Residents

Jan Kropp, Resident

Todd Kusnierz, Town Councilman, Town of Moreau Town Board

Karl and Nicole Lankenau, Residents

Joseph LaPlant, Resident

Comments and Responses

Stephen LaPoint, Resident
Phil Lindsey, Resident
William and Linda McCarthy, Residents
David McDonnell, Resident
Robert and Diane Munyon, Residents
David E. Nagle, Resident
Peter Nye, Wildlife Biologist II (Unit Leader), NYS DEC - Endangered Species Unit
Peggy Parker, Resident
Robert Renaud, Resident
Charles Rowson, Resident
Dawn Roy, Resident
Stephen Samuell, Mohawk-Hudson Bike Club
Johnathan Schnieder, Mountain Bike and Hiker User Group
James Underwood, Queensbury Land Conservancy
Michael Valentine, Sr. Planner, Saratoga County Planning Board
Ivan Vamos, NYS Bicycling Coalition
Ross and Catherine Vrooman, Residents
Jared L. Wells, Resident
Laurie Williams, Friends of Moreau Lake SP
Neil Woodworth, Executive Director, Adirondack Mountain Club
Kyle D. York, Resident

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Bibliography

Appendices

Appendices

Appendices

Appendix A

Species List for Blocks 5978A, 5978B, 5978D, 5979D and 6078A From the 2000 NYS Breeding Bird Atlas

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NY LEGAL STATUS
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Protected – Threatened
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Protected
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Protected
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Protected
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Game Species
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Game Species
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	Game Species
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Game Species
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Game Species
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Protected – Special Concern
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Protected – Special Concern
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Protected – Special Concern
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Protected
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Protected
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Protected
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Game Species
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Game Species
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Protected
Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Game Species
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	Game Species
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Protected
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Unprotected
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Protected
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Protected
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	Protected
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Protected – Special Concern
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Protected
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Protected
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Protected
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Protected
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Protected
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Protected
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Protected
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Protected
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	Protected
Acadian Fly Catcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	Protected
Alder Fly Catcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Protected
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Protected
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Protected
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Protected
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Protected
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Protected
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	Protected

Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Protected
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Protected
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Protected
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Protected
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Game Species
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Protected
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Protected
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Protected
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Protected
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	Protected
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Protected
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Protected
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	Protected
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Protected
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Protected
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	Protected
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Protected
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Protected
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	Protected
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Protected
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Protected
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Protected
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Protected
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Protected
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Protected
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Protected
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Unprotected
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Protected
Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Protected
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Protected
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Protected
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Protected
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Protected
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	Protected
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Protected
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	Protected
Prairie Warbler	<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	Protected
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Protected
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Protected
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Protected
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	Protected
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	Protected
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Protected
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Protected
Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Protected
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Protected
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Protected
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Protected
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Protected
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	Protected
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Protected

Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Protected
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Protected
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Protected
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Protected
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Protected
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Protected
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Protected
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Protected
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Protected
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Protected
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	Protected
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Unprotected

Birding Checklist compiled by the "Friends of Moreau Lake"

Legend

- A - Abundant - Present in numbers to be noticeable to casual observers
- C - Common - More than 10 per day.
- U - Uncommon - 1-10 per day, but can be overlooked
- O - Occasional - Several records per season, occasionally seen but most often missed.
- R - Rare - Few records not expected every year.
- X - Accidental - Only one or two records ever and are to be watched for, but not expected.
- SP - Spring - March to May
- S - Summer - June to July
- F - Fall - August to October
- W - Winter- November to December

* - Identified on NYS list of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species or Species of Special Concern.

Common Name	Season			
	SP	S	F	W
Red-throated Loon			R	
Common Loon*	U		U	
Horned Grebe	R		R	
Pied-billed Grebe*	U	U	U	
Red-necked Grebe	R		R	
Northern Gannett	X			
Double-crested Cormorant	R	R	R	
American Bittern*	O	O	O	
Green Heron	U	U	U	
Glossy Ibis	X			
Canada Goose	C		C	
Wood Duck	U	U	U	
Mallard	A	A	A	
American Black Duck	C	C	C	
Gadwall	O	O	O	
Green-winged Teal	U	U	U	
American Widgeon	O	O	O	
Northern Pintail	R	R	R	
Northern Shoveler	R	R	R	
Blue-winged Teal	U	U	U	

Ringed-neck Duck	R	R	R	
Lesser Scaup	O	O	O	
Common Goldeneye	O		O	
Bufflehead	O		O	
Common Merganser	O		O	
Hooded Merganser	O		O	
Ruddy Duck	O		O	
Turkey Vulture	C	C	C	
Osprey*	U	U	U	
Northern Harrier*	O		O	
Bald Eagle*	O		O	
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	U	U	U	U
Cooper's Hawk*	U	U	U	U
Northern Goshawk*	O	O	O	
Broad-winged Hawk	U	U	U	
Red-shouldered Hawk*		R		
Red-tailed Hawk	U	U	U	U
Rough-legged Hawk			R	
American Kestrel	U	U	U	
Merlin		R		
Peregrine Falcon*	R	R	R	

Ringed-necked Pheasant	X			
Wild Turkey	C	C	C	C
Ruffed Grouse	U	U	U	U
Virginia Rail	X			
Sora	O	O	O	
Yellow Rail	R	R	R	
Common Moorhen	R	R	R	
American Coot	U	U	U	
Semipalmated Plover	R	R	R	
Killdeer	U	U	U	
Greater Yellowlegs	O	O	O	
Lesser Yellowlegs	O	O	O	
Solitary Sandpiper	R	R	R	
Spotted Sandpiper	U	U	U	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	X			
Western Sandpiper	O	O	O	
Least Sandpiper	U	U	U	
Pectoral Sandpiper	R	R	R	
Dunlin	X			
Long-billed Dowitcher	X			
Common Snipe	O	O	O	
American Woodcock	O	O	O	
Ringed-billed Gull	C	C	C	
Herring Gull	O	O	O	
Great Black-backed Gull	X			
Common Tern*	R	R	R	
Rock Dove	U	U	U	
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	
Black-billed Cuckoo	R	R	R	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	R	R	R	
Long-eared Owl	X			
Short-eared Owl*			R	
Great Horned Owl	U	U	U	U
Barred Owl	U	U	U	U
Eastern Screech Owl	U	U	U	U
Northern Saw-whet Owl	R	R	R	R
Common Nighthawk*	U	U	U	
Whip-poor-will*	U	U	U	
Chimney Swift	R	R	R	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	U	U	U	
Rufus Hummingbird	X			
Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U	
Red-headed Woodpecker*	R	R	R	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	X			

Northern Flicker	U	U	U	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U	U	U	
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
Downy Woodpecker	A	A	A	A
Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U
Olive-sided Flycatcher	R	R	R	
Eastern Wood-peewee	C	C	C	
Alder Flycatcher	R	R	R	
Willow Flycatcher	R	R	R	
Least Flycatcher	U	U	U	
Eastern Phoebe	C	C	C	
Great-crested Flycatcher	U	U	U	
Eastern Kingbird	O	O	O	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	X			
Northern Shrike	R	R	R	
White-eyed Vireo	U	U	U	
Yellow-throated Vireo	O	O	O	
Blue-headed Vireo	U	U	U	
Red-eyed Vireo	A	A	A	
Warbling Vireo	C	C	C	
Blue Jay	A	A	A	A
American Crow	A	A	A	A
Common Raven	C	C	C	C
Tree Swallow	C	C	C	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U	
Barn Swallow	O	O	O	
Tufted Titmouse	U	U	U	U
Brown Creeper	O	O	O	
Black-capped Chickadee	A	A	A	A
White-breasted Nuthatch	A	A	A	A
Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	U	U	U
House Wren	U	U	U	
Winter Wren	U	U	U	
Marsh Wren	O	O	O	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	O	O	O	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U	U	U	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	O	O	O	
Eastern Bluebird	R	R	R	
Wood Thrush	U	U	U	
Veery	U	U	U	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	O	O	O	
Hermit Thrush	U	U	U	
American Robin	C	C	C	O
Gray Catbird	U	U	U	

Northern Mockingbird	O	O	O	
Brown Thrasher	O	O	O	
European Starling	C	C	C	C
American Pipit	R	R	R	
Bohemian Waxwing	X			
Cedar Waxwing	U	U	U	
Prothonotary Warbler	R	R	R	
Yellow Warbler	U	U	U	
Chestnut sided Warbler	U	U	U	
Magnolia Warbler	O	O	O	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	C	C	
Black-and-White Warbler	U	U	U	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	U	U	U	
Cerulean Warbler*	R	R	R	
Blackburnian Warbler	U	U	U	
Black-throated Green Warbler	C	C	C	
Prarie Warbler	R	R	R	
Pine Warbler	O	O	O	
Blackpoll Warbler	R	R	R	
Mourning Warbler	R	R	R	
Canada Warbler	O	O	O	
Ovenbird	U	U	U	
Louisiana Waterthrush	R	R	R	
Northern Waterthrush	O	O	O	
Common Yellowthroat	U	U	U	
American Redstart	U	U	U	
Summer Tanager	R	R	R	
Scarlet Tanager	O	O	O	
Eastern Towhee	O	O	O	
American Tree Sparrow			C	C
Field Sparrow	O	O	O	
Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C	
Fox Sparrow	O		O	
Savannah Sparrow	R	R	R	
Lincoln's Sparrow	O	O	O	
Song Sparrow	U	U	U	U
Swamp Sparrow	O	O	O	
White-throated Sparrow	C	U	C	
White-crowned Sparrow	C		C	
Dark-eyed Junco			U	C
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	U	U	U	
Northern Cardinal	U	U	U	U
Indigo Bunting	O	O		
Eastern Meadowlark	O	O	O	

Red-winged Blackbird	C	C	C	
Common Grackle	U	U	U	
Rusty Blackbird	O	O	O	
Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	
Orchard Oriole	R	R	R	
Baltimore Oriole	O	O	O	
Purple Finch	U	U	U	U
House Finch	C	C	C	C
Red Crossbill	R	R	R	R
White-winged Crossbill			R	R
Pine Grosbeak			R	R
Pine Siskin			U	U
American Goldfinch	C	C	C	C
Common Redpoll				R
Hoary Redpoll				R
Evening Grosbeak	R	R	R	R
House Sparrow	A	A	A	A

Appendix B

List of Species that have the Potential to Occur in Moreau Lake State Park (Gibbs & Faber-Langendoen, 1998)

	Common Name	Scientific Name
Mammals	Masked shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>
	Smoky shrew	<i>Sorex fumeus</i>
	Pigmy shrew	<i>Sorex hoyi</i>
	Northern short-tailed shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>
	White-footed mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>
	Deer mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>
	Southern redback vole	<i>Clethrionomys gapperi</i>
	Meadow vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>
	Woodland vole	<i>Microtus pinetorum</i>
	Eastern gray squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
	Red squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>
	Northern flying squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>
	Southern flying squirrel	<i>Glaucomys volaris</i>
	Eastern chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>
	Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>
	American beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>
	Common porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>
	White tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
	Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
	Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
	Common gray fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>
	Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
	American marten	<i>Martes americana</i>
	Short-tailed weasel	<i>Mustela erminea</i>
	Long-tailed weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>
	Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>
	Striped skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>
	Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethica</i>
	Black bear	<i>Ursus americanus pallas</i>
	Fisher	<i>Martes pennanti ergleben</i>
	Keen's myotis	<i>Myotis keenii troussart</i>
	Little brown bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>
	Eastern red bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>
	Hoary bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>
Silver haired bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	
Eastern pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i>	
Big brown bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	
Eastern cottontail rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	
Snowshoe hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>	
Amphibians	Spotted salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>
	Jefferson salamander	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>
	Red spotted newt	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>
	Redback salamander	<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>
	Slimy salamander	<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>
	Northern two-lined salamander	<i>Eurycea bilineata</i>
	Mountain dusky salamander	<i>Desmognathus ochrophaeus</i>

	Northern dusky salamander	<i>Desmognathus fuscus</i>
	Spring salamander	<i>Gynophilus porphydeticus</i>
	Four-toed salamander	<i>Hemidactylum scutatum</i>
	Mudpuppy	<i>Necturus maculossus</i>
	American toad	<i>Bufo americanus</i>
	Fowler's Toad	<i>Bufo fowleri</i>
	Eastern spadefoot toad	<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>
	Spring peeper	<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>
	Gray treefrog	<i>Hyla versicolor</i>
	Pickeral frog	<i>Rana palustris</i>
	Northern leopard frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>
	Wood frog	<i>Rana sylvatica</i>
	Green frog	<i>Rana clamitansris</i>
	Bull frog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>
Reptiles	Common snapping turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>
	Eastern painted turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>
	Wood turtle	<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>
	Common musk turtle	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>
	Common map turtle	<i>Graptemys geographia</i>
	Eastern box turtle	<i>Terrepene carolina</i>
	Fivelined skink	<i>Eumeces fasciatus</i>
	Northern water snake	<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>
	Common garter snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>
	Eastern milk snake	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>
	Eastern hognose snake	<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>
	Northern brown snake	<i>Storeria dekayi</i>
	Black rat snake	<i>Elaphe obsoleta</i>
	Timber rattlesnake	<i>Crotalis horridus</i>
	Northern ringneck snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>
	Northern redbelly snake	<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>
	Smooth green snake	<i>Liochlorophis vernalis</i>
	Eastern ribbon snake	<i>Thamnophis sauritis</i>
	Northern black racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>

Appendix C

List of Rare, Threatened, Endangered or Species of Special Concern with the Potential to Occur in Moreau Lake State Park. (Gibbs & Faber-Langendoen, 1998)

	Common Name	Scientific Name
Mammals	Least weasel	<i>Mustela nivala</i>
	Indiana myotis	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>
	Small-footed myotis	<i>Myotis leibbii</i>
	Eastern woodrat	<i>Neotoma floridana</i>
	Least shrew	<i>Cryptotis parva</i>
Plants	Swamp agrimony	<i>Agrimony parviflora</i>
	Putty-root	<i>Aplectrum hyemale</i>
	Drummond's rock cress	<i>Arabis drummond</i>
	Green rock-cress	<i>Arabis missouriensis</i>
	Swamp pink	<i>Arethusa bulbosa</i>
	Lake-cress	<i>Armoracia lacustris</i>
	Purple milkweed	<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>
	Rush aster	<i>Aster borealis</i>
	Bog aster	<i>Aster nemoralis</i>
	Heath aster	<i>Aster pilosus var. pringlei</i>
	Large-leaved aster	<i>Aster schreberi</i>
	Downy wood-mint	<i>Blephilia ciliata</i>
	Blunt-lobe grape fern	<i>Botrychium oneidense</i>
	Pickering's reedgrass	<i>Calamagrostis pickeringii</i>
	Purple cress	<i>Cardamine douglassii</i>
	Hay sedge	<i>Carex argyrantha</i>
	Rocky Mountain sedge	<i>Carex backii</i>
	Bicknell's sedge	<i>Carex bicknellii</i>
	Bush's sedge	<i>Carex bushii</i>
	Brown bog sedge	<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>
	Creeping sedge	<i>Carex chordorrhiza</i>
	Soft fox sedge	<i>Carex conjuncta</i>
	Crawe sedge	<i>Carex crawei</i>
	Northeastern sedge	<i>Carex cryptolepis</i>
	Clustered sedge	<i>Carex cumulata</i>
	Davis' sedge	<i>Carex davisii</i>
	Elk sedge	<i>Carex garberi</i>
	Hitchcock's sedge	<i>Carex hitchcockiana</i>
	Houghton's sedge	<i>Carex houghtoniana</i>
	False hop sedge	<i>Carex lupuliformis</i>
	Fernald's sedge	<i>Carex merritt-fernaldii</i>
	Reflexed sedge	<i>Carex retroflexa</i>
	Sparse-flowered sedge	<i>Carex tenuiflora</i>
	Prickly hornwort	<i>Ceratophyllum echinatum</i>
	Tall thistle	<i>Cirsium altissimum</i>
	Golden corydalis	<i>Corydalis aurea</i>
	Rattlebox	<i>Crotalaria sagittalis</i>
	Northern wild comfrey	<i>Cynoglossum virginianum var. boreale</i>
	Red-rooted flatsedge	<i>Cyperus erythrorhizos</i>
	Houghton's umbrella sedge	<i>Cyperus houghtonii</i>
	Hop sedge	<i>Cyperus lupulinus</i> spp. <i>Lupulinus</i>



Rusty flatsedge	<i>Cyperus odoratus</i>
Schweinitz's flatsedge	<i>Cyperus schweinitzii</i>
Ram's-head ladyslipper	<i>Cypripedium arietinum</i>
Small white ladyslipper	<i>Cypripedium candidum</i>
Small-flowered tick-clover	<i>Desmodium pauciflorum</i>
Blunt spikerush	<i>Eleocharis obtusa</i> var. <i>ovata</i>
Spurred gentian	<i>Halenia deflexa</i>
Mock-pennyroyal	<i>Hedeoma hispidum</i>
Kidney leaf mudplaintain	<i>Heteranthera reniformis</i>
Golden-seal	<i>Hydrastis canadensis</i>
Great St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum ascyron</i>
Shrubby St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>
Large-spored quillwort	<i>Isoetes lacustris</i>
Woods-rush	<i>Juncus subcaudatus</i>
Downy lettuce	<i>Lactuca hirsuta</i>
Trailing lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza repens</i>
Violet lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza violacea</i>
Large white flowered ground-cherry	<i>Leucophysalis grandiflora</i>
Mudwort	<i>Limosella australis</i>
Stiff yellow flax	<i>Linum striatum</i>
Large twayblade	<i>Liparis liliifolia</i>
Dwarf bulrush	<i>Lipocarpha micrantha</i>
Hoary Puccoon	<i>Lithospermum canescens</i>
Hairy woodrush	<i>Luzula campestris</i> var. <i>bulbosa</i>
Gypsy-wort	<i>Lycopus rubellus</i>
Climbing fern	<i>Lygodium palmatum</i>
Water-marigold	<i>Megalodonta beckii</i> var. <i>beckii</i>
Water milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i>
Green parrot's-feather	<i>Myriophyllum pinnatum</i>
Evening primrose	<i>Oenothera oakesiana</i>
Virginia false gromwell	<i>Onosmodium virginianum</i>
Northern panic grass	<i>Panicum boreale</i>
Swamp lousewort	<i>Pedicularis lanceolata</i>
Smooth cliff brake	<i>Pellae glabella</i>
Sweet coltsfoot	<i>Petasites frigidus</i> var. <i>palmatus</i>
Wild sweet-william	<i>Phlox maculata</i>
Ground-cherry	<i>Physalis pubescens</i> var. <i>integrifolia</i>
Jack pine	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>
Hooker's orchid	<i>Platanthera hookeri</i>
Small's knotweed	<i>Polygonum buxiforme</i>
Carey's smartweed	<i>Polygonum careyi</i>
Douglas' knotweed	<i>Polygonum douglasi</i>
Erect knotweed	<i>Polygonum erectum</i>
Slender knotweed	<i>Polygonum tenue</i>
Northern pondweed	<i>Potamogeton alpinus</i>
Algae-like pondweed	<i>Potamogeton confervoides</i>
Water-thread pondweed	<i>Potamogeton diversiflorus</i>
Hill's pondweed	<i>Potamogeton hillii</i>
Spotted pondweed	<i>Potamogeton pulcher</i>
Straight-leaf pondweed	<i>Potamogeton strictifolius</i>
Dwarf sand-cherry	<i>Prunus pumila</i> var. <i>depressa</i>
Giant pine-drops	<i>Pterospora andromedea</i>
Whorled mountain-mint	<i>Pycnanthemum verticillatum</i> var. <i>verticillatum</i>
Pink wintergreen	<i>Pyrola asarifolia</i> var. <i>asarifolia</i>
Swamp buttercup	<i>Ranunculus hispidus</i> var. <i>nitidus</i>
Rhodora	<i>Rhododendron canadense</i>
Prickly rose	<i>Rosa acicularis</i> spp. <i>sayi</i>

Strap-leaf arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria subulata</i>
Pod grass	<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>
Clinton's clubrush	<i>Scirpus clintonii</i>
Whip nutrush	<i>Scleria triglomerata</i>
Wildpink	<i>Silene caroliniana</i>
Upland-goldenrod	<i>Solidago ptarmicoides</i>
Small bur-reed	<i>Sparganium nutans</i>
Rough rush-grass	<i>Sporobolus clandestinus</i>
Water awlwort	<i>Subularia aquatica</i> var. <i>americana</i>
Ohio spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>
False-pennyroyal	<i>Trichostema brachiatus</i>
Nodding pogonia	<i>Triphora trianthophora</i>
Cork elm	<i>Ulmus thomasii</i>
Hidden fruit bladderwort	<i>Utricularia geminiscapa</i>
Lesser bladderwort	<i>Utricularia minor</i>
Small floating bladderwort	<i>Utricularia radiata</i>
Dwarf Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium cespitosum</i>
Neckweed	<i>Veronica peregrina</i> var. <i>xalapensis</i>
New England violet	<i>Viola novae-angliae</i>

Appendix D

Primitive Camp Site Analysis

The following table illustrates the siting and selection process OPRHP and Reliant Energy used to set up and install the four water-access camp sites along the Hudson River.

Potential Site Analysis	
<p>The following sites were selected because they met preliminary criteria. These criteria are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ease of access from river.• Dry, level site for several tents.• Prefer 150' buffer from water's edge.• Site is partially or fully screened from the main channel.• Site is fairly open (little or no understory brush).• Site can be accessed from land side.• Site is not too close to a roadway (to discourage partying).• Potential for non-Hudson River water supply.• Potential to cluster two or more campsites.• Potential to locate sanitary facilities 150' from water's edge.	
Spier Falls Impoundment	
<p>1. Bennie Brook Site 1</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An existing site (evidence of use present). Currently signed by Park, no camping and no campfires.• A wood road near by leads up to Hawk Road.• Accessible by both water and land.• If land side access camping is allowed, parking will be needed.• There are remnants of a hunting camp on the site.• A pit privy may be necessary.• Good stream flow in Bennie Brook.
<p>2. Bennie Brook Site 2</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would be a new site (not currently in use).• Requires clearing approximately 12 trees all under 6" dbh.• No land side access. A trail would have to be cut to the wood road for land access.• Providing land access would require crossing Bennie Brook.• Good stream flow in Bennie Brook• Could possibly fit two tents.

3. Murray Foundation



- No clear view of water's edge (would be difficult for campers to monitor their craft, would have to be pulled well up on shore)
- Well screened from the river channel.
- Large grassy, cleared area. There is enough space for 2 or three tents (group camp potential).
- The well and foundation could be a hazard. Signing, protection measures and stabilization would be needed. Good interpretation opportunity.
- Well could be reestablished for a water source.(hand pump)
- Wood road is near by a trail could be cut for land side access.

Sherman Island Impoundment

1. Hartman Creek Site 1



- Existing site, evidence of use
- Signed by Park, no camping, no campfires.
- Steep climb from river or from creek shore.
- Screened from road and river channel.
- Almost directly across from Sherman Island Launch.
- Requires a trail to be cut to reach a wood road for land side access.
- Good stream flow in creek.

2. Hartman Creek Site 2



- This would be a new site. Not currently in use.
- Very flat and close to shore.
- Potential to be wet or flood from high water.
- Less screening from road or river.
- Requires a trail to be cut to reach a wood road for land side access.
- Good stream flow in creek

3. Other sites upstream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites appear to be on higher ground and would be more attractive. • Land side access would be relatively easy as they are off a wood road. • Existing sites currently signed by Park, no camping, no campfires. • Sites are not near an alternate water source (creek, stream or well). • May be too many sites too close together to be under DOH requirements for potable water and sanitary facilities.
4. Old Boat Launch Site (Warren Co Shore)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to road, potential “party site” • Could be redesigned for use as a boat launch or improved to be used as a water-accessed docking/day use/ picnic area. • Poor land side access. • Potential for partnership with Town of Queensbury for development of another boat launch. • Access would potentially be through lands owned by Niagara Mohawk.
4. Potter's Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing sites (two are currently signed by Park, no camping, no campfires.) • Former location of hunting camps. • Potential for further development (campground or cabin colony) • Access from land side could be an issue since the road is gated by the Town. Access would have to be negotiated. • The landing area will have to be improved (cleaned up). There are remains of docks or piers (metal pipes) jutting into the water. • A second potential landing area has had some stone work installed making it a very attractive site. • The potential to create 5 or more sites exists here. If 5 or more sites are created, meeting potable water and sanitary facility requirements of DOH will have to be addressed.
<p>Preferred Option: Spier Falls Impoundment Alternatives 1 and 3 Sherman Island Impoundment Alternatives 1 and 2.</p>	

Appendix E

Soil Interpretation Ratings

Building and Site Development

*(Warren County Soil Survey, USDA, 1989 and Saratoga County Soil Survey, USDA, May 1995 Interim Report and 1998 Data Set.)
 (* An asterik denotes information from the May 1995 Interim Report of the Saratoga County Soil Survey)*

Soil Name and Map Symbol	Shallow Excavations	Dwellings without basements	Dwellings with basements	Small commercial buildings	Local roads and streets	Lawns and landscaping
BdC - Bice very bouldery fine sandy loam, sloping	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope	Severe: slope	Moderate: slope, small stones, large stones	Moderate: slope, large stones, small stones
BdE - Bice very bouldery fine sandy loam, steep	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope
BPC - Bice-Woodstock Complex, strongly sloping, stony	Moderate: slope, cubanks cave Severe: depth to bedrock	Moderate: slope, Severe: depth to bedrock	Moderate: slope Severe: depth to bedrock	Severe: slope, depth to bedrock	Moderate: slope Severe: depth to bedrock	Moderate: slope
BPE - Bice-Woodstock Complex, steep, stony	Severe: slope, depth to bedrock, cutbanks cave	Severe: slope, depth to bedrock	Severe: slope, depth to bedrock	Severe: slope, depth to bedrock	Severe: slope, depth to bedrock	Severe: slope
CcD - Charlton Loam, 15 to 25% slopes	Severe: slope, cutbanks cave	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope
CeC - Chatfield-Hollis complex, rolling, rocky	Severe: slope, cutbanks, cave, depth to bedrock	Moderate: slope Severe: depth to bedrock	Severe: slope, depth to bedrock	Severe: slope, depth to bedrock	Moderate: slope, frost action Severe: depth to bedrock	*Moderate: droughty, slope, thin layer Severe: depth to bedrock

Soil Name and Map Symbol	Shallow Excavations	Dwellings without basements	Dwellings with basements	Small commercial buildings	Local roads and streets	Lawns and landscaping
ChB - Charlton Fine sandy loam, 3 to 8% slopes	Slight	Slight	Slight	Moderate: slope	Slight	Slight
ChC - Charlton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15% slopes	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope	Severe: slope	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope
ChD - Charlton fine sandy loam, 15 to 25% slopes	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope
DeA - Deerfield loamy fine sand, nearly level	Severe: cutbanks cave, wetness	Moderate: wetness	Severe: wetness	Moderate: wetness	Moderate: frost action, wetness	Moderate: droughty, wetness
Fi - Fluvaquents, frequently flooded	Severe: depth to water table cutbanks cave, ponding	Severe: flooding, ponding, depth to water table	Severe: flooding, ponding, depth to water table	Severe: flooding, ponding, depth to water table	Severe: ponding, depth to water table, frost action	Severe: ponding, depth to water table, flooding
Fu - Fluvaquents-Udipsamments, frequently flooded	Severe: cutbanks cave, ponding, depth to water table	Severe: flooding, ponding, depth to water table	Severe: flooding, ponding, depth to water table	Severe: flooding, ponding, depth to water table	Moderate: flooding Severe: ponding, depth to water table, frost action	Moderate: droughty Severe: ponding, depth to water table, flooding
HcA - Hinkley gravelly loamy sand, 0 to 3% slopes	Severe: cutbanks cave	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight	Moderate, droughty, gravel content
HcB - Hinkley gravelly loamy sand, 3 to 8% slopes	Severe: cutbanks cave	Slight	Slight	Moderate: slope	Slight	Moderate: droughty, gravel content
HcC - Hinkley gravelly loamy sand, 8 to 15% slopes	Severe: slope, cutbanks cave	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope	Severe: slope	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope, droughty, gravel content
HcD - Hinkley gravelly loamy sand, 15 to 25% slopes	Severe: cutbanks cave, slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope, gravel content, droughty

Soil Name and Map Symbol	Shallow Excavations	Dwellings without basements	Dwellings with basements	Small commercial buildings	Local roads and streets	Lawns and landscaping
HnB - Hinkley cobbly sandy loam, 3 to 8% slopes	Severe: cutbanks cave	Slight	Slight	Moderate: slope	Slight	Severe: small stones, droughty
HnC - Hinkley cobbly sandy loam, 8 to 15% slopes	Severe: cutbanks cave	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope	Severe: slope	Moderate: slope	Severe: small stones, droughty
HoB - Hoosic Gravelly loam, undulating	Severe: cutbanks cave	Slight	Slight	Moderate: slope	Slight	Severe: droughty, gravel content
HpC - Hinkley-Plainfield Complex, sloping	Severe: cutbanks cave	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope	Severe: slope	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope, droughty
HpE - Hinkley-Plainfield Complex, steep	Severe: cutbanks cave	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: small stones, droughty, slope
LyA - Lyme very stony fine sandy loam, nearly level	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness, frost action	Severe: wetness
Ms - Massena silt loam	Severe: wetness, cutbanks cave	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness, frost action	Severe: wetness
Mu - Middlebury fine sandy loam	Severe: cutbanks cave, wetness	Severe: flooding, wetness	Severe: flooding, wetness	Severe: flooding, wetness	Severe: wetness, flooding, frost action	Severe: wetness
OaB - Oakville loamy fine sand, 3 to 8% slopes	Severe: cutbanks cave	Slight	Slight	Moderate: slope	Slight	Moderate: droughty
OaC - Oakville loamy fine sand, 8 to 15% slopes	Severe: cutbanks cave	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope	Severe: slope	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope, droughty
OeE - Oakville and Windsor Soils	Severe: cutbanks cave, slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope, droughty
Pm - Palms muck	Severe: depth to water table, ponding,	Severe: subsidence, ponding, depth to water table	Severe: subsidence, ponding, depth to	Severe: subsidence, ponding, depth to water table	Severe: subsidence, ponding, depth to	*Severe: ponding, excess humus

Soil Name and Map Symbol	Shallow Excavations	Dwellings without basements	Dwellings with basements	Small commercial buildings	Local roads and streets	Lawns and landscaping
	cutbanks cave		water table		water table	
PoE - Plainfield and Oakville soils, steep	Severe: cutbanks cave, slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope
Pv - Pits, sand and gravel	Not rated	Slight	Slight	Severe: slope	Slight	Not Rated
Ro - Rock outcrop	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sa - Scarboro mucky loamy sand	Severe: cutbanks cave, depth to water table, ponding	Severe: ponding, depth to water table	Severe: ponding, depth to water table	Severe: ponding, depth to water table	Severe: ponding, depth to water table, frost action	*Severe: ponding
TNC - Tunbridge-Lyman Complex, strongly sloping, very rocky	Severe: slope, cutbanks, cave, depth to bedrock	Moderate: slope Severe: depth to bedrock	Severe: slope, depth to bedrock	Severe: slope, depth to bedrock	Moderate: slope, Severe: frost action, depth to bedrock	*Severe: depth to bedrock
TNE - Tunbridge-Lyman Complex, steep, very rocky	Severe: depth to bedrock, slope, cutbanks cave	Severe: slope, depth to bedrock	Severe: depth to bedrock, slope	Severe: slope, depth to bedrock	Severe: slope, depth to bedrock, frost action	*Severe: slope, depth to bedrock
To - Tioga fine sandy loam	Severe: cutbanks cave	Severe: flooding	Severe: flooding	Severe: flooding	Severe: flooding	Moderate: flooding
Ud - Udorthents, smoothed	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wa - Wareham loamy sand	Severe: cutbanks cave	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness
WnA - Windsor loamy sand, nearly level	Severe: cutbanks cave	Slight	Slight	Slight	Slight	Moderate: droughty, flooding
WnB - Windsor loamy sand, undulating, 3 to 8% slopes	Severe: cutbanks cave	Slight	Slight	Moderate: slope	Slight	*Moderate: droughty
WnC - Windsor loamy sand, rolling	Severe: slope, cutbanks cave	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope	Severe: slope	Moderate: slope	*Moderate: droughty, slope

Soil Name and Map Symbol	Shallow Excavations	Dwellings without basements	Dwellings with basements	Small commercial buildings	Local roads and streets	Lawns and landscaping
WnD - Windsor loamy sand, hilly	Severe: slope, cutbanks cave	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	*Severe: slope
WoC - Woodstock-Rock outcrop complex, sloping	Severe: depth to rock	Moderate: slope, depth to rock	Severe: depth to rock	Severe: slope	Moderate: depth to rock, slope, frost action	Moderate: small stones, large stones, droughty
WoE - Woodstock Rock outcrop, steep	Severe: depth to rock, slope	Severe: slope	Severe: depth to rock, slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Moderate: small stones, large stones, droughty

Recreational Development

(Warren County Soil Survey, USDA, 1989 and Saratoga County Soil Survey, USDA, May 1995 Interim Report and 1998 Data Set.)

(* An asterik denotes information from the May 1995 Interim Report of the Saratoga County Soil Survey)

Soil Name and Map Symbol	Camp Areas	Picnic Areas	Playgrounds	Paths and Trails	Golf Fairways
BdC - Bice very bouldery fine sandy loam, sloping	Moderate: slope, small stones	Moderate: slope, small stones	Severe: slope, large stones, small stones	Slight	Moderate: slope, large stones, small stones
BdE - Bice very bouldery fine sandy loam, steep	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope, large stones, small stones	Severe: slope	Severe: slope
BPC - Bice-Woodstock Complex, strongly sloping, stony	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope	Severe: slope	Slight	Moderate: slope
BPE - Bice-Woodstock Complex, steep, stony	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope
CcD - Charlton Loam, 15 to 25% slopes	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope, gravel content	Moderate: slope	Severe: slope
CeC - Chatfield-Hollis complex, rolling, rocky	*Moderate: slope Severe: depth to bedrock	*Moderate: slope Severe: depth to bedrock	*Severe: slope, depth to bedrock	*Slight	*Moderate: droughty, slope, thin layer Severe: depth to bedrock
ChB - Charlton Fine sandy loam, 3 to 8% slopes	Slight	Slight	Moderate: slope, small stones	Slight	Slight
ChC - Charlton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15% slopes	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope	Severe: slope	Slight	Slight
ChD - Charlton fine sandy loam, 15 to 25% slopes	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Moderate: slope	Severe: slope
DeA - Deerfield loamy fine sand, nearly level	Moderate: wetness, too sandy	Moderate: wetness, too sandy	Moderate: wetness, too sandy	Moderate, too sandy	Moderate: wetness, droughty

Soil Name and Map Symbol	Camp Areas	Picnic Areas	Playgrounds	Paths and Trails	Golf Fairways
FI - Fluvaquents, frequently flooded	*Severe: flooding, ponding	*Severe: ponding	*Severe: small stones, ponding, flooding	*Severe: ponding	Severe: ponding, depth to water table flooding
Fu - Fluvaquents-Udipsammments, frequently flooded	*Severe: flooding, ponding Moderate: too sandy	*Severe: ponding Moderate: too sandy	*Severe: ponding, flooding Moderate: too sandy	*Severe: ponding Moderate: too sandy	Moderate: droughty Severe: ponding, flooding
HcA - Hinkley gravelly loamy sand, 0 to 3% slopes	Moderate: too sandy, gravel content	Moderate: too sandy, gravel content	Severe: too sandy, gravel content	Moderate: too sandy	Moderate: droughty, gravel content
HcB - Hinkley gravelly loamy sand, 3 to 8% slopes	Moderate: too sandy, gravel content	Moderate: too sandy, gravel content	Severe: slope, gravel content, too sandy	Moderate: too sandy	Moderate: droughty, gravel content
HcC - Hinkley gravelly loamy sand, 8 to 15% slopes	Moderate: slope, too sandy	Moderate: slope, gravel content, too sandy	Severe: slope, gravel content, too sandy	Moderate: too sandy	Moderate: slope, gravel content, droughty
HcD - Hinkley gravelly loamy sand, 15 to 25% slopes	Severe: slope, too sandy, gravel content	Severe: slope, too sandy, gravel content	Severe: slope, gravel content, too sandy	Moderate: slope, too sandy	Severe: droughty, slope, gravel content
HnB - Hinkley cobbly sandy loam, 3 to 8% slopes	Severe: small stones	Severe: small stones	Severe: small stones	Slight	Severe: small stones, droughty
HnC - Hinkley cobbly sandy loam, 8 to 15% slopes	Severe: small stones	Severe: small stones	Severe: small stones, slope	Slight	Severe: small stones, droughty
HoB - Hoosic Gravelly loam, undulating	Moderate: gravel content	Moderate: gravel content	Severe: gravel content, slope	Slight	Severe: droughty, gravel content
HpC - Hinkley-Plainfield Complex, sloping	Severe: small stones Moderate: slope	Severe: small stones Moderate: slope	Severe: small stones, slope	Slight	Severe: small stones, droughty Moderate: slope
HpE - Hinkley-Plainfield Complex, steep	Severe: slope, small stones	Severe: slope, small stones	Severe: slope, small stones	Severe: slope	Severe: small stones, droughty, slope
LyA - Lyme very stony fine sandy loam, nearly level	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: small stones, wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness

Soil Name and Map Symbol	Camp Areas	Picnic Areas	Playgrounds	Paths and Trails	Golf Fairways
Ms - Massena silt loam	Severe: depth to water table, restricted permeability	Severe: depth to water table, restricted permeability	Severe: depth to water table, restricted permeability	Moderate: depth to water table	Moderate: depth to water table
Mu - Middlebury fine sandy loam	Severe: flooding, wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness
OaB - Oakville loamy fine sand, 3 to 8% slopes	Slight	Slight	Moderate: slope	Slight	Moderate: droughty
OaC - Oakville loamy fine sand, 8 to 15% slopes	Moderate: slope	Moderate: slope	Severe: slope	Slight	Moderate: slope, droughty
OeE - Oakville and Windsor Soils	Severe: slope, too sandy	Severe: slope, too sandy	Severe: slope, too sandy	Severe: slope, too sandy	Severe: slope, droughty
Pm - Palms muck	*Severe: ponding, floods, excess humus	*Severe: wetness, excess humus	*Severe: wetness, floods, excess humus	*Severe: wetness, excess humus	*Severe: wetness, floods, excess humus
PoE - Plainfield and Oakville soils, steep	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope
Pv - Pits, sand and gravel	Not Rated	Not Rated	Not Rated	Not Rated	Not Rated
Ro - Rock outcrop	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sa - Scarboro mucky loamy sand	*Severe: ponding	*Severe: ponding	*Severe: ponding	*Severe: ponding	*Severe: ponding
TNC - Tunbridge-Lyman Complex, strongly sloping, very rocky	*Moderate: slope, small stones Severe: depth to bedrock, large stones	*Moderate: slope, small stones Severe: large stones, depth to bedrock	*Severe: large stones, slope, depth to bedrock	*Slight	*Severe: depth to bedrock
TNE - Tunbridge-Lyman Complex, steep, very rocky	*Severe: slope, depth to bedrock	*Severe: slope, large stones, depth to bedrock	*Severe: large stones, slope, depth to bedrock	*Severe: slope	*Severe: slope, depth to bedrock
To - Tioga fine sandy loam	Severe: flooding	Slight	Moderate: flooding	Severe: erodes easily	Moderate: flooding
Ud - Udorthents, smoothed	Moderate: too sandy	Moderate: too sandy	Moderate: slope, too sandy	Moderate: too sandy	Severe: droughty
Wa - Wareham loamy sand	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness

Soil Name and Map Symbol	Camp Areas	Picnic Areas	Playgrounds	Paths and Trails	Golf Fairways
WnA - Windsor loamy sand, nearly level	*Moderate: too sandy	*Moderate: too sandy	*Moderate: too sandy	*Moderate: too sandy	*Moderate: droughty
WnB - Windsor loamy sand, undulating, 3 to 8% slopes	*Moderate: too sandy	*Moderate: too sandy	*Moderate: slope, too sandy	*Moderate: too sandy	*Moderate: droughty
WnC - Windsor loamy sand, rolling	*Moderate: slope, too sandy	*Moderate: slope, too sandy	*Severe: slope	*Moderate: too sandy	*Moderate: droughty, slope
WnD - Windsor loamy sand, hilly	*Severe: slope	*Severe: slope	*Severe: slope	*Moderate: too sandy, slope	*Severe: slope
WoC - Woodstock-Rock outcrop complex, sloping	Moderate: slope, small stones	Moderate: slope, small stones	Severe: large stones, slope, small stones	Slight	Moderate: small stones, large stones, droughty
WoE - Woodstock Rock outcrop, steep	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: large stones, slope, small stones	Severe: slope	Moderate: small stones, large stones, droughty

Sanitary Facilities

(Warren County Soil Survey, USDA, 1989 and Saratoga County Soil Survey, USDA, May 1995 Interim Report and 1998 Data Set.)

(* An asterik denotes information from the May 1995 Interim Report of the Saratoga County Soil Survey)

Soil Name and Map Symbol	Septic Tank absorption fields	Sewage lagoon areas	Trench sanitary landfill	Area sanitary landfill	Daily cover for landfill
BdC - Bice very bouldery fine sandy loam, sloping	Moderate: slope, percs slowly	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage	Severe: seepage	Poor: small stones
BdE - Bice very bouldery fine sandy loam, steep	Severe: slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Poor: slope
BPC - Bice-Woodstock Complex, strongly sloping, stony	Moderate: slope Severe: depth to bedrock	Severe: seepage, slope, depth to bedrock	Severe: seepage, slope, depth to bedrock	Severe: seepage, depth to bedrock, slope	Fair: seepage, slope Poor: depth to bedrock
BPE - Bice-Woodstock Complex, steep, stony	Severe: slope, depth to bedrock	Severe: seepage, depth to bedrock, slope	Severe: depth to bedrock, seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, depth to bedrock, slope	Poor: slope, seepage, depth to bedrock
CcD - Charlton Loam, 15 to 25% slopes	Severe: slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Poor: slope, seepage
CeC - Chatfield-Hollis complex, rolling, rocky	Severe: depth to bedrock, slope	Severe: seepage, depth to bedrock, slope	Severe: depth to bedrock, seepage, slope	Severe: depth to bedrock, slope, seepage	Poor: depth to bedrock, slope
ChB - Charlton Fine sandy loam, 3 to 8% slopes	Slight	Severe: seepage	Severe: seepage	Severe: seepage	Fair: small stones
ChC - Charlton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15% slopes	Moderate: slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage	Fair: small stones, slope
ChD - Charlton fine sandy loam, 15 to 25% slopes	Severe: slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Poor: slope
DeA - Deerfield loamy fine sand, nearly level	Severe: wetness, filtering capacity	Severe: seepage, wetness	Severe: seepage, wetness, too sandy	Severe: seepage, wetness	Poor: too sandy, seepage, wetness
FI - Fluvaquents, frequently flooded	Severe: flooding, ponding, depth to	Severe: depth to water table,	*Severe: flooding, depth to bedrock,	*Severe: flooding, seepage, ponding	*Poor: too sandy, small stones,

Soil Name and Map Symbol	Septic Tank absorption fields	Sewage lagoon areas	Trench sanitary landfill	Area sanitary landfill	Daily cover for landfill
	water table	flooding, ponding	seepage		ponding
Fu - Fluvaquents-Udisamments, frequently flooded	Severe: flooding, ponding, filtering capacity, depth to water table	Severe: depth to water table, seepage, flooding, ponding	*Severe: flooding, depth to bedrock, seepage, wetness	*Severe: flooding, seepage, ponding	*Poor: too sandy, small stones, ponding, seepage
HcA - Hinkley gravelly loamy sand, 0 to 3% slopes	Severe: filtering capacity	Severe: seepage	Severe: seepage, too sandy	Severe: seepage	Poor: seepage, too sandy, gravel content
HcB - Hinkley gravelly loamy sand, 3 to 8% slopes	Severe: filtering capacity	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, too sandy	Severe: seepage	Poor: seepage, too sandy, gravel content
HcC - Hinkley gravelly loamy sand, 8 to 15% slopes	Severe: slope, filtering capacity	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, too sandy, slope	Severe: seepage	Poor: seepage, too sandy, gravel content
HcD - Hinkley gravelly loamy sand, 15 to 25% slopes	Severe: filtering capacity, slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, too sandy, slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Poor: seepage, too sandy, slope
HnB - Hinkley cobbly sandy loam, 3 to 8% slopes	Severe: poor filter	Severe: seepage	Severe: seepage, too sandy	Severe: seepage	Poor: too sandy, seepage, small stones
HnC - Hinkley cobbly sandy loam, 8 to 15% slopes	Severe: poor filter	Severe: slope, seepage	Severe: seepage, too sandy	Severe: seepage	Poor: too sandy, seepage, small stones
HoB - Hoosic Gravelly loam, undulating	Severe: filtering capacity	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, too sandy	Severe: seepage	Severe: too sandy, seepage, gravel content
HpC - Hinkley-Plainfield Complex, sloping	Severe: poor filter	Severe: slope, seepage	Severe: seepage, too sandy	Severe: slope, seepage	Poor: too sandy, seepage, small stones
HpE - Hinkley-Plainfield Complex, steep	Severe: slope, poor filter	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: slope, seepage, too sandy	Severe: slope, seepage	Poor: slope, too sandy, seepage
LyA - Lyme very stony fine sandy loam, nearly level	Severe: wetness	Severe: seepage, wetness	Severe: seepage, wetness	Severe: seepage, wetness	Poor: wetness

Soil Name and Map Symbol	Septic Tank absorption fields	Sewage lagoon areas	Trench sanitary landfill	Area sanitary landfill	Daily cover for landfill
Ms - Massena silt loam	Severe: wetness, restricted permeability	Severe: wetness, seepage	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Poor: wetness
Mu - Middlebury fine sandy loam	Severe: flooding, wetness, poor filter	Severe: flooding, wetness, seepage	Severe: flooding, wetness, seepage	Severe: flooding, wetness	Poor, wetness
OaB - Oakville loamy fine sand, 3 to 8% slopes	Severe: poor filter	Severe: seepage	Severe: seepage, too sandy	Severe: seepage	Poor: too sandy, seepage
OaC - Oakville loamy fine sand, 8 to 15% slopes	Severe: poor filter	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, too sandy	Severe: seepage	Poor: too sandy, seepage
OeE - Oakville and Windsor Soils	Severe: filtering capacity, slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, slope, too sandy	Severe: seepage, slope	Poor: seepage, too sandy, slope
Pm - Palms muck	Severe: subsidence, ponding, depth to water table	Severe: seepage, depth to water table, ponding	Severe: ponding, depth to water table, too sandy	Severe: ponding, seepage, depth to water table	Poor: ponding, depth to water table
PoE - Plainfield and Oakville soils, steep	Severe: slope, poor filter	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, slope, too sandy	Severe: seepage, slope	Poor: too sandy, slope, seepage
Pv - Pits, sand and gravel	Slight	Severe: slope	Not Rated	Not Rated	Not Rated
Ro - Rock outcrop	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sa - Scarboro mucky loamy sand	Severe: ponding, filtering capacity	Severe: seepage, ponding, depth to water table	Severe: seepage, ponding, depth to water table	Severe: seepage, ponding, depth to water table	Poor: ponding, depth to water table, seepage
TNC - Tunbridge-Lyman Complex, strongly sloping, very rocky	Severe: depth to bedrock, slope	Severe: seepage, depth to bedrock, slope	Severe: depth to rock, seepage, slope	Severe: depth to bedrock, seepage, slope	Poor: seepage, depth to bedrock, slope
TNE - Tunbridge-Lyman Complex, steep, very rocky	Severe: depth to bedrock, slope	Severe: seepage, depth to bedrock, slope	Severe: depth to bedrock, slope, seepage	Severe: depth to bedrock, seepage, slope	Poor: depth to bedrock, slope, seepage
To - Tioga fine sandy loam	Severe: flooding, wetness, poor filter	Severe: flooding, seepage, wetness	Severe: flooding, seepage, wetness	Severe: flooding, seepage, wetness	Poor: thin layer
Ud - Udorthents, smoothed	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Soil Name and Map Symbol	Septic Tank absorption fields	Sewage lagoon areas	Trench sanitary landfill	Area sanitary landfill	Daily cover for landfill
Wa - Wareham loamy sand	Severe: wetness, poor filter	Severe: wetness, seepage	Severe: seepage, wetness, too sandy	Severe: seepage, wetness	Poor: seepage, too sandy, small stones
WnA - Windsor loamy sand, nearly level	Severe: filtering capacity	Severe: seepage	Severe: seepage, too sandy	Severe: seepage	Poor: seepage, too sandy
WnB - Windsor loamy sand, undulating, 3 to 8% slopes	Severe: filtering capacity	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, too sandy	Severe: seepage	Poor: seepage, too sandy
WnC - Windsor loamy sand, rolling	Severe: slope, filtering capacity	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, too sandy, slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Poor: seepage, too sandy, slope
WnD - Windsor loamy sand, hilly	Severe: filtering capacity, slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, slope, too sandy	Severe: seepage, slope	Poor: seepage, too sandy, slope
WoC - Woodstock-Rock outcrop complex, sloping	Severe: depth to rock	Severe: seepage, depth to rock, slope	Severe: depth to rock, seepage	Severe: depth to rock, seepage	Poor: area reclaim
WoE - Woodstock Rock outcrop, steep	Severe: depth to rock	Severe: depth to rock, seepage, slope	Severe: depth to rock, seepage, slope	Severe: depth to rock, seepage, slope	Poor: area reclaim, slope

Appendix F

BCA Assessment Worksheet

Region: Saratoga - Capital District

Park: Moreau Lake State Park

Information Source	Consulted	Results/Findings
Breeding Bird Atlas	+	<p>Five BBA blocks include portions of Moreau Lake. 5978B represents the greatest area of overlap and is the only block that will be used for further assessment. Interim data from Atlas 2000 roughly in order of greatest overlap:</p> <p>5978B - Total Species, 90; Confirmed, 12; Probable, 37; Possible 41</p> <p>5979D - Total Species, 57; Confirmed, 13; Probable, 15; Possible, 29</p> <p>5978 A - Total Species, 51; Confirmed, 7; Probable, 9; Possible, 35</p> <p>5978D - Total Species, 80; Confirmed, 30; Probable, 35; Possible, 15</p> <p>6078D - Total Species, 86; Confirmed, 40; Probable, 30; Possible, 16</p> <p>Composite - Total Species, 106; Confirmed, 55; Probable, 33; Possible, 18</p> <p>Nesting Species at Risk (2000 data for 5978B): Pied-billed Grebe - Threatened(Possible), Sharp-shinned Hawk – Special Concern (Possible), Cooper's Hawk – Special Concern (Possible), Red-shouldered Hawk – Special Concern (Probable), Common Nighthawk – Special Concern (Possible).</p> <p>Nesting Species at Risk BBA Block 5978B only: Pied-billed Grebe – Threatened (Possible); Cooper's Hawk – Special Concern (Possible); Red-shouldered Hawk – Special Concern (Probable).</p>
GAP Analysis	-	
BBS	-	
Christmas Bird Counts	+	<p>Hudson Falls – 101st – 105th Count (Average 50.8 species) Species (105th, 104th, 103rd, 102nd, 101st)</p> <p>Species At Risk: Bald Eagle (0, 3, 1, 2, 1), Northern Harrier (3, 0, 0, 24, 5), Sharp-shinned Hawk (2, 4, 5, 2, 1), Cooper's Hawk (3, 4, 5, 2, 1), Short-eared Owl (0, 0, 0, 1, 2).</p> <p>Waterfowl count : (1398, 977, 732, 2674, 733), 72-90% were Canada Goose and mallards(545):Small numbers (max. in parentheses) of Red-throated Loon (1), Horned Grebe (7), Snow Goose (2), Wood Duck (1), American Black Duck (64), Northern Pintail (2),Canvasback (1), Ring-necked Duck (1), Bufflehead (5), Common Goldeneye (392), Hooded Merganser (54), Common Merganser (82).</p>
NYS Natural Heritage	+	<p>Significant ecological communities include: hemlock-northern hardwood forest (2,254 acres) and calcareous talus slope woodland (30 acres). Birds found at Moreau Lake State Park that are associated with this forest habitat include: Wild Turkey, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Green Warbler, Pine Warbler, White-throated Sparrow (Smith 1998, Checklist).</p>
IBA	+	<p>Moreau Lake Forest: Meets two criteria: (1) Responsibility Assemblage – Forest: Black Billed Cuckoo, Eastern Wood-Pee wee,</p>

		<p>Wood Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, and (2) Congregations – Individual Species: Bald Eagle</p> <p>Species at Risk:</p> <p>Severely at Risk:</p> <p>Bald Eagle (NY-Threatened, Federal – Threatened in lower 48 States; at least 10 wintering eagles)</p> <p>Highly at Risk:</p> <p>Common Loon (NYS – Special Concern) uncommon Spring and Fall</p> <p>Pied-billed Grebe (NYS – Threatened) uncommon Spring, Summer and Fall; possible breeder BBA block 5978B</p> <p>Osprey (NYS – Special Concern) uncommon Spring, Summer and Fall</p> <p>Cooper’s Hawk (NYS – Special Concern) uncommon year round; possible breeder block 5978B; confirmed breeder block 6078A</p> <p>Northern Goshawk (NYS – Special Concern) occasional Spring, Summer and Fall</p> <p>Common Nighthawk (NYS – Special Concern) uncommon Spring, Summer and Fall</p> <p>Whip-poor-will (NYS – Special Concern) uncommon Spring, Summer and Fall</p> <p>Blackburnian Warbler (WL-A) per observation 5/13/05</p> <p>Canada Warbler (WL-A) occasional Spring, Summer and Fall</p> <p>Rusty Blackbird (WL-A) uncommon Spring, Summer and Fall</p> <p>At Risk:</p> <p>American Black Duck (WL-A) common Spring, Summer and Fall; Probable breeder BBA block 5978D</p> <p>Northern Harrier (NYS – Threatened) occasional Spring and Fall</p> <p>Red-shouldered Hawk (NYS – Special Concern) probable breeder BBA block 5978B; rare Spring</p> <p>Wood Thrush (WL-A) confirmed breeder BBA block 5978B, uncommon Spring, Summer and Fall</p>
Bird Checklist	+	<p>"Moreau Lake State Park Birding Checklist" 192 species</p> <p>Species at Risk (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) (Occurance: R= Rare, O= Occasional, U= Uncommon): Endangered - Peregrine Falcon (R,R,R,--), Short-eared Owl (--,--,R,--); Threatened - Pied-billed Grebe (U,U,U,--), Bald Eagle (O,--,O,--), Northern Harrier (O,--,O,-), Common Tern (R,R,R,--); Special Concern - Common Loon (U,--,U,--), American Bittern (O,O,O,--), Osprey (U,U,U,--), Sharp-shinned Hawk (U,U,U,U), Cooper’s Hawk (U,U,U,U), Northern Goshawk (O,O,O,--), Red-shouldered Hawk (--,R,--,--), Common Nighthawk (U,U,U,--), Whip-poor-will (U,U,U,--), Red-headed Woodpecker (R,R,R,--)</p>
Preliminary Criteria Assessment	+	<p>44 species of migratory birds (33 regularly occurring; support birds of Forest/river, brush, leafy woodland, marsh, field, lake/coastal water, woods (assemblages 1, 6, 7, 8, 11); supports 3 grassland species (Northern Harrier, Savannah Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark); supports 31 forest species.</p>
Park Plans	+	Master Plan in progress
Other Resources	+	Bald Eagle Mid-winter Survey: minimum of 6 adults and 4 immature observed(min. 10 eagles)
Field Staff	+	Michael Greenslade, Laura Conner
Other Contacts	+	Peter Nye – area below Spier Falls regularly used by wintering Bald Eagles
Field Visits	+	6 November 2003; 18 March 2004; 14-15 May 2005

(+ = checked, found data; - = checked, no data; () = not checked)

Sources: *Evans, D.J. and P. G. Novak, Rare species and Ecological Communities of Moreau Lake State Park, New York Natural Heritage Program, 2000*
Seeholzer, Bert. "Moreau Lake State Park Birding Checklist"
Smith, Charles. In Bull's Birds of New York State, 1998.
Smith, Charles, 2000. An application of the New York Gap Analysis Database for Identification of Potential Bird Conservation Areas on Public Lands in New York State.

Appendix G

Photos of Scenic Views of and within Moreau Lake State Park



Spring Trail overlook from Spier Falls Boat Launch.



*View from the
Spring Trail
overlook 1*



View of Spier Falls Boat Launch from Spring Trail Overlook.



View of Luzerne Mountains from Spring Trail Overlook.



View of Lake Ann



Moreau Upper



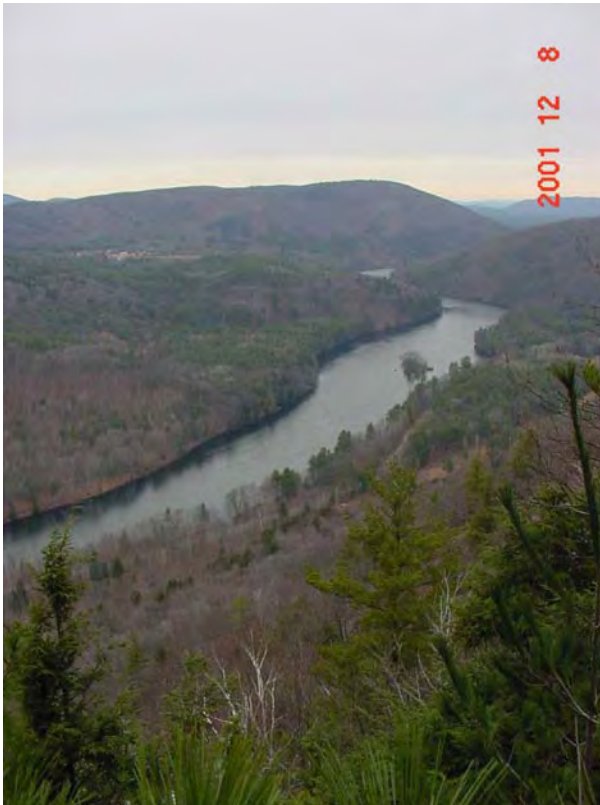
Moreau Upper 2



Western Ridge trail, central, lookout 3 dam



Western Ridge Trail, central, lookout 3 Hudson



*Western Ridge Trail, central, lookout 3 Hudson
2*



Western Ridge Trail, central, lookout 4 Birches



Western Ridge Trail, central, spur 1 Hudson



Western Ridge Trail, central, spur 2 Adirondacks



Western Ridge Trail, central, spur 2 dam



Western Ridge Trail, north end 2



Western Ridge Trail, north end



Red Oak Ridge 3 (looking over Moreau Lake)

Appendix H

Draft
New York State
Bird Conservation Area Program
Management Guidance Summary

Site Name: Moreau Lake Bird Conservation Area (BCA)

State Ownership and Managing Agency: Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)

Location: Saratoga County, Towns of Moreau and Corinth; Warren County Towns of Lake Luzerne and Queensbury

Size of Area: 3,368 acres

DEC Region: 5

OPRHP Region: Saratoga-Capital District (Region 11)

General Site Information: The Moreau Lake BCA is within Moreau Lake State Park. The Hudson River divides the Park into a northern portion in Warren County owned by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and managed by OPRHP and the southern portion in Saratoga County owned and administered by OPRHP. Hemlock-northern hardwood forest with associated beech-maple forest dominates the BCA. Much of the terrain is steep and rocky. There are about seven miles of shoreline along the Hudson River.

Vision Statement: The Moreau Lake BCA will be managed to achieve an appropriate balance between conservation of the diverse assemblage of bird species using the area for breeding or during migration, and access to and recreational use of various areas of the BCA. The areas most critical to bird conservation will be designated as a BCA. Other areas that have some conservation value to birds but are less significant will not be included as part of the BCA. While these areas have some suitable habitat, factors such as habitat quality, size or location reduce their significance to bird conservation. The park may seek input from the BCA staff for management recommendations for these areas.

Key BCA Criteria: Migratory concentration site; diverse species concentration site; species at risk site (ECL §11-2001, 3.e, f, h). Moreau Lake BCA is a stopover site for Neotropical migratory songbirds especially forest dwelling migrants during both spring and fall migrations. The site supports a diversity of birds associated with upland forest. It is also a significant wintering site for the state and federally threatened Bald Eagle and regularly supports state threatened Pied-billed Grebe (possible breeder) and Northern Harrier (spring and fall migration); and state species of special concern Cooper's Hawk (possible breeder) and Red-shouldered Hawk (probable breeder).

Critical Habitat Types: The hemlock-northern hardwood forest makes up about two-thirds of the BCA. It is a significant ecological community because of its size, contiguous nature and is an excellent example of this community type in NYS. This combined with other upland forest (e.g. beech-maple mesic forest and Appalachian oak-pine forest) contribute to the diversity of birds and the presence of a wide variety of migrants.

Probable or confirmed breeders found in these forests include Wild Turkey, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, and Pine Warbler. Other regularly occurring species during both the breeding season and spring and fall migrations include Golden-crowned Kinglet, Black-throated Green Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush and White-throated Sparrow.

The Hudson River supports birds such as Common Loon and Osprey on migration. Songbirds concentrate along major rivers during spring and fall migrations. It is also a significant overwintering site for Bald Eagles.

Pied-billed Grebes regularly occur in Mud Pond from spring through fall and may breed there.

Operation and Management Considerations:

- *Identify habitat management activities needed to maintain site as a BCA.* – The type and extent of recreational activities proposed for the park in the Master Plan will not require any significant alteration of existing habitat. However, it is important to ensure that the large areas of hemlock-northern hardwood, beech-maple and associated habitat are protected from fragmentation and isolation of habitats.
- *Identify seasonal sensitivities; adjust routine operation, accordingly.* – Snowmobiling takes place in the Warren County area primarily by local residents. Bald Eagles winter along the Hudson River below Spier Falls Dam. Any management activities that may lead to an increase in snowmobile use on the north side of the river should be evaluated regarding the potential to disturb the eagles. OPRHP will work with DEC's Endangered Species Unit in this regard.
- *Identify state activities or operation that may pose a threat to the critical habitat types identified above; recommend alternatives to existing and future operations, which may pose threats to those habitats.* – Recreation activity along the shore of the Hudson River could possibly affect roosting areas for Bald Eagles. Special care is required to assure the protection of large trees that can serve as important roosting locations.
- *Identify any existing or potential use impacts; recommend new management strategies to address those impacts.* – The master plan calls for a trails plan for the Warren County section of the park. Any new trails or trail segments will be located and designed so as to minimize impacts on birds and their habitats.

The areas across from the park entrance and Potter's Point were evaluated as having conservation value to birds but not significant enough to qualify as a BCA. The existing campground and day use areas may be important to birds during the off season (mid-October to mid-May). Park and OPRHP's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) staff will work together on management activities that may impact bird conservation in these areas.

Education, Outreach, and Research Considerations:

- *Assess current access; recommend enhanced access, if feasible.* – The Hudson River provides a corridor for canoeists and kayakers. The current owners of the hydroelectric power generating stations, in accordance with their operating license

from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), has created four water access campsites, two portage trails and two boat launches within the OPRHP/power company agreement area. Improvement and expansion of facilities should not compromise habitats along the river.

There are no connector trails, bridges or routes that connect the Saratoga County portions of the park to the Warren County portions. Crossing can only be done by boat or by driving out of the park to bridges in Glens Falls or Corinth.

There is no formal access to The Warren County portion of the BCA/Park.

The master plan calls for parking and access points to be developed within the Warren County portion of the BCA/park. These areas will be created by improving and upgrading existing cleared areas. Informational kiosks will be used at parking and trailhead areas.

- *Determine education and outreach needs; recommend strategies and materials.* – Update Moreau Lake State Park bird checklist.

Develop interpretive materials that highlight bird and other wildlife viewing. Interpretation and viewing etiquette for wintering Bald Eagles will be developed in conjunction with DEC's Endangered Species Unit as appropriate.

Work with local partners such as the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society to provide bird related walks and programs to supplement the Park's interpretation program.

A BCA Kiosk will be developed and placed in an appropriate location.

- *Identify research needs; prioritize and recommend specific projects or studies.* – Use of the site by wintering (Dec. 1 – Mar. 31) Bald Eagles should be monitored. The impacts of activities along the Hudson River (e.g. snowmobiling) should be studied in relation to their impacts on Bald Eagles.

Breeding birds will be monitored with a focus on the status of Pied-billed Grebe at Mud Pond as well as breeding status of Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks. Any new breeding data for any bird species should be forwarded to the Breeding Bird Atlas program.

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Sources:

Date Designated:

Date Prepared: (4/22/04 Draft)